■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Pool parties at Hollywood hotel; why Antonio Banderas thinks wife Melanie 'misused'

■ SPORTS / A28

White Sox World Series champs again after 88 years

■ NEWS / A7

18 feared dead in Compostela's Diwalwal tunnel collapse

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Ferragamo stages show in Forbidden City but there are no Mao reds

Gloria's own 'Eraptions' now between covers

HELLO MA'AM? MAY LIBRO NA RIN KAYO!

By Blanche S. Rivera

MOVE OVER, ERAP, HERE comes Gloria.

After the bestseller "Joke ni Erap," a collection of popular jokes about actor-turned-presi-

GLORIA'S/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palparan: Leftists making me symbol of AFP abuses

By PDI Central Luzon Desk

MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN JR. IS UNfazed by accusations he is the mastermind behind the murders of 19 militants in Central Luzon in the last two months.

"I'm not angry. I can smile and laugh about it," Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th

PALPARAN/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, October 28, 2005 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 322 P18 website: www.inq7.net

US Embassy report links FVR to plot

SMOKING GUN? MacArthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." But then he never met former President Fidel Ramos. PDI PHOTO

Other officers cited in GMA ouster by June

By Norman Bordadora

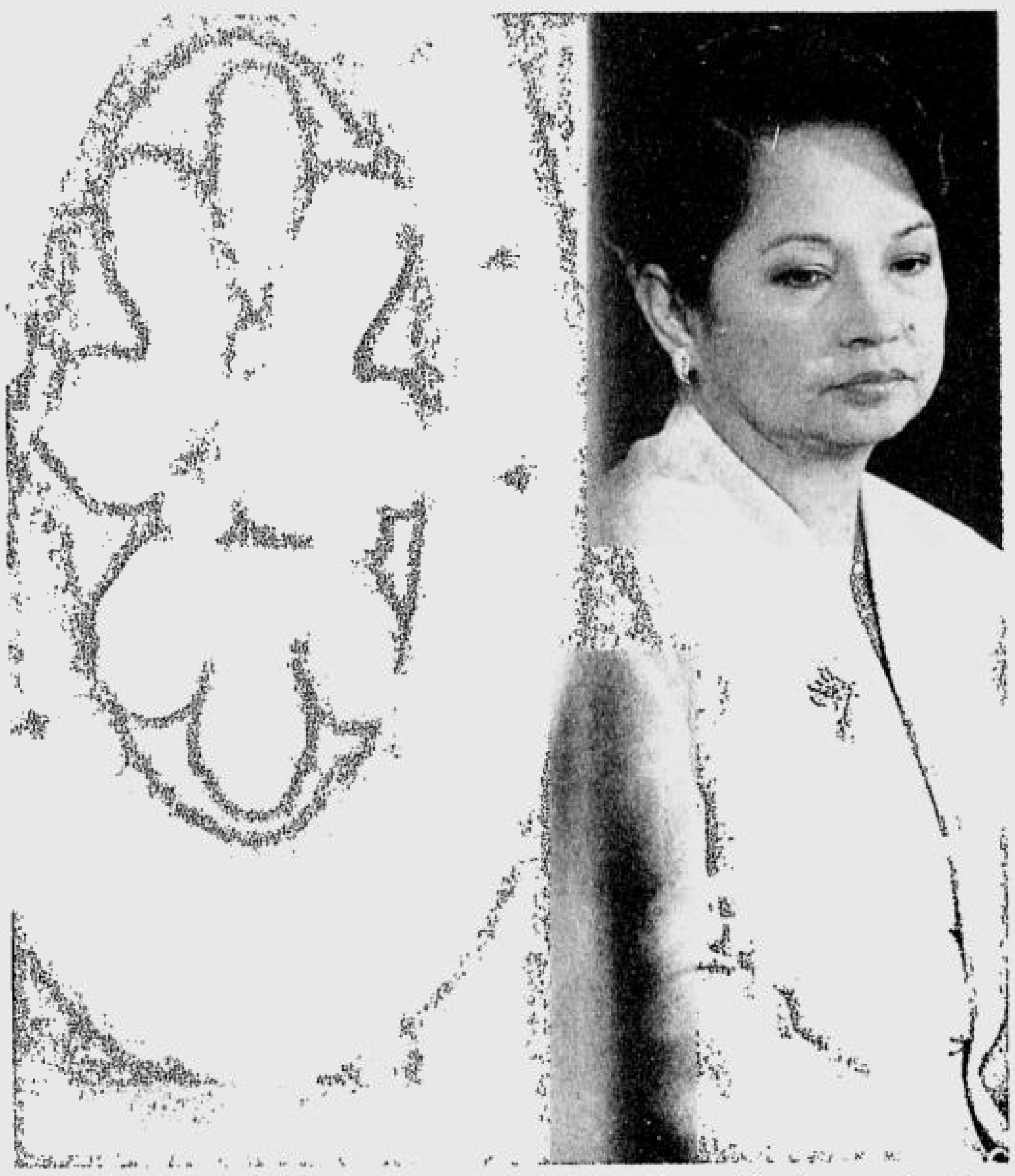
EARLY ON IN THE YEAR, THE US Embassy in Manila received information linking former President Fidel Ramos to reports of a supposed planned coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to an embassy report dated Feb. 24, 2005, and prepared before the "Jueteng-gate" and "Hello, Garci" scandals erupted, Ramos gave his former national security adviser, Jose Almonte, until June to implement the plan against the President.

At that time, the questions of legitimacy and integrity leveled at Ms Arroyo involved only the dismissed election protest of the late opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. and the persistent allegations of fraud in the 2004 polls.

"Most disturbingly, sensitive reports maintained that former President Ramos continues a series of meetings with Forces (Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers)," the report said.

US EMBASSY/ A21



PRESIDENT ARROYO lapses into a pensive mood while waiting to deliver her speech at the Eco-Minds Pacific Forum, an environmental forum focusing on clean water, at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Makati City on Thursday. LYN RILLON

Palace now a fortress; eyes no-permit, no-Mass policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Fe Zamora

THE PALACE HAS BECOME A VIRTUAL fortress overnight, stepping up security restrictions to prevent the opposition from holding sneak protest actions within "spitting distance."

Yesterday, Presidential Security Group personnel in full battle gear and with high-powered rifles and handguns were deployed all over the Malacañang complex, and half a dozen military trucks and a Hummer were seen patrolling the grounds.

Access was limited through only one or two gates. All vehicles, office workers and churchgoers had to endure multiple inspections.

A PSG man has been assigned to the press office to monitor activities in the two-story building.

And if Malacañang would have its way, there should be a "no permit, no Mass" policy in nearby churches.

Or at least this much was said by PSG commander Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit in a letter to Msgr. Ernesto Cruz, parish priest of the National Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel,

PALACE/ A21

Boncodin testifies on 1-day release of fertilizer fund

By TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

BY GOVERNMENT STANDARDS, a big portion of the Department of Agriculture's P728-million fertilizer fund, which was believed to have been diverted to boost President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidential campaign last year, was released quickly three months before the May 10, 2004, elections.

This cropped up in the deposition given by former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to the Senate committee on agriculture and food on Wednesday afternoon in connection with its inquiry into the alleged misuse of the fund.

Boncodin gave the deposition while she was confined at the National Kidney Institute.

Boncodin said the Department of Budget and Management released the P728 million to former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr. for the purchase of farm inputs under a special allotment release order (Saro) on Feb. 3, 2004.

A Saro is a commitment from the government to fund a project, while a notice of cash allocation (NCA) is an advice to the project proponent that the cash is ready.

That same day, the DBM released P291.2 million to the DA's account at the Land Bank of the Philippines through an NCA. The amount represented 40 percent of the allotment.

By government standards, the issuance of a Saro and an NCA for a project on the same day was rather quick, a lawyer said, noting that these documents are normally issued at least a month, and in some instances, a year apart depending on fund availability.

"It's an unusually quick release of the NCA and the Saro," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., committee chair, said in a phone interview. "Normally, the NCA follows weeks after, a month after, or even beyond a month."

He, however, said that Boncodin could not be faulted for this since her role was merely ministerial.

"If it's in the budget, she releases the Saro and the NCA. Her act being merely ministerial, she no

BONCODIN/ A8

Gov't bans duck-raising in migratory bird zones

By Christine A. Gaylican
Business

STARTING THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNment is banning duck-raising in migratory bird zones in 20 provinces to prevent the spread of the deadly avian flu virus.

"Beginning this month until March, duck-raising will not be permitted within the radius of migratory bird zones we have identified in 20 priority provinces," said Director Davinio Catbagan of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

Ducks are the known carriers of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, which has infected 121 people in four Asian countries and killed 62, according to the World Health Organization.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said on Wednesday it was "only a matter of time" before bird flu reached the Philippines.

GOV'T/ A9

How to spot avian influenza

By Norman Bordadora

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SPOT MIgratory birds with swollen legs, ruffled feathers and purple crowns and wattles, call the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and tell the authorities: "Avian flu may have already reached the country's wetlands."

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday started the information campaign on the avian flu threat

HOW/ A9

POLICING THE RANKS. Police Supt. Ferdinand Querante, who ordered the hosing down of members of the Bukluran para sa Katotohanan, joins them at Mass at the San Miguel Church near Malacañang.

Boy nabbed with terror chief, others

By Dona Pazzibugan

LOOKING STOIC, THE SUSPECTed leader of the radical Islamic group Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) limped before President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Hilarion Santos, alias Ahmad Santos, was followed by four men handcuffed like him and three veiled women, one of whom was his wife.

A 12-year-old boy, who was arrested with the group during a military raid in Zamboanga City on Tuesday night, was not presented to Ms Arroyo at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. The son of a Sulu policeman had been turned over to the social welfare department, military officials said.

The President, accompanied by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, stayed only briefly for the usual photo-op and TV sound bite.

"Terrorism is an extraordinary crime and a threat to the world and to the country and I congratulate everybody involved for this very significant achievement," Ms Arroyo said.

"There are more battles out there to be won ... I encourage you to continue fighting this war against terrorism."

BOY/ A21

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers becoming frequent rains over Central and Southern Luzon. Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/28/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Labor chief asserts 'takeover' powers

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA STO. TOMAS yesterday asserted anew her office's power to assume jurisdiction over labor disputes in companies whose operations are vital to the national interest.

However, Sto. Tomas said she was "quite willing" to divest herself of such power, that is, to issue assumption of jurisdiction orders (AJOs), if Congress passed a law amending the Labor Code.

Sto. Tomas was reacting to a proposal filed by labor party-list representatives seeking to strip her of the function. "It's one less duty for me to exercise," she told reporters.

Critics of Sto. Tomas had tagged her assumption of jurisdiction of the labor dispute at Hacienda Luisita's Central Azucarera de Tarlac last year as being responsible for the bloody dispersal of striking workers which left seven people dead and scores injured.

A few days ago, however, the Court of Appeals' First Division ruled that Sto. Tomas acted within the bounds of law in intervening in the sugar central dispute. The Secretary said she was glad about the order and said she welcomed any move to appeal the decision before the Supreme Court.

The bill's authors, Party-List Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano (Anakpawis); Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador and Teodoro Casiño (Bayan Muna); and Liza Largoza-Maza (Gabriela), argued that the power was "anti-strike" in character and, in many cases, had been abused by the labor secretary.

They said that in the settlement of labor disputes and in the resolution of the complaints of workers, "everything is left to the secretary's discretion and hinges on her opinion."

Opposition tells GMA : Thanks but no thanks

By Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THANKS BUT NO THANKS.

Saying the opposition was not interested in obtaining government positions, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero yesterday turned down President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal for a government of national unity.

Escudero said the offer was only part of an administration "campaign to woo" the opposition under the guise of "sharing power and responsibility."

He said what he had told Environment Secretary Michael Defensor – that he was willing to join the government "at the proper time" – was really just "a polite way of declining" the invitation to join the Cabinet.

"The problem is (their) wrong premise. The administration has been acting a tad too condescending of late, that instead of addressing the root (cause) of all our political problems fair and square, (it) is now insinuating that position and power (are) what we in the opposition have been fighting for all this time," Escudero said.

President Arroyo in Cebu City on Wednesday called on the opposition to join her in a government of national unity to put an end to the political crisis that has practically paralyzed her governance.

She said it would not be a "power sharing" but a "sharing of public leadership and responsibility for the common good."

Defensor had said the proposal would entail appointing "responsible" members of the opposition to the Cabinet.

On learning Escudero had turned down the President's offer, he told reporters yesterday: "It's more important that we help each other for the greater good."

Wrong premise

He urged the opposition to hear out the President's proposal before turning it down.

"For now, we wish they would give it a chance, that they would listen to the proposal," he said.

Escudero said the administration would not be able to resolve the political crisis if it continued to focus on "the wrong premise" by claiming there were threats of a power grab and destabilization, and "to deny that accountability, transparency and the simple truth are what the people seek."

"The truth on the whereabouts of (former Commission on Elections) Commissioner (Virgilio) Garcillano, the truth of 'jueteng' money supposedly used to buy votes for President Gloria Arroyo in Mindanao, the truth of the alleged mangled Piatco and Venable deals, etc. The people are patiently and quietly waiting, and national reconciliation, to them and to us in the opposition, is all about reconciling the facts behind these scandals," he said.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico likened President Arroyo's proposal of a national unity government to the "same dog trotted out in the last 12th Congress."

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano used the fictional character Ali Baba in "The Arabian Nights" as an analogy.

"It's like Ali Baba asking those who accused him of stealing to join him and be one of his many thieves," Cayetano said.

Suplico said under the proposal previously advanced by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, (former) Rep. Carlos Padilla, Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino and other minority members of Congress would join the Arroyo Cabinet.

"Lately, the dog's name was changed to 'power sharing.' Yesterday, GMA (President Arroyo) renamed the dog 'sharing public leadership.' It's no wonder that Senator Angara was resurfaced as the possible dog handler, the Palace mascot," he said.

Yesterday, Angara said the President should form a "coalition of the willing" composed of the major political parties as the core of the proposed government of national unity.

Ms Arroyo had thanked Angara in Cebu City for proposing a unity government as early as 2001, but she said she was making her recent offer after discussions with El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde last week.

"There has to be a coalition of the willing, people who want to get things done so we can move this initiative forward," Angara said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER. With Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

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		35,000	85,000	70,000	80,000
		45,000	95,000	90 ,000	100,000

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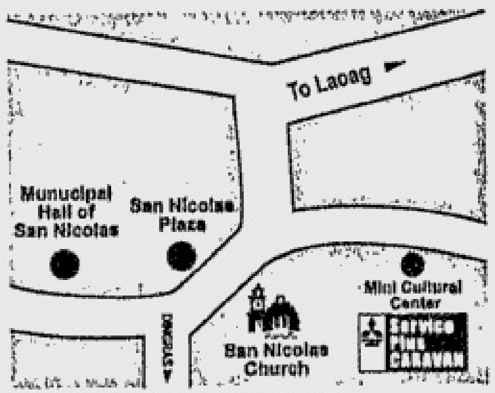

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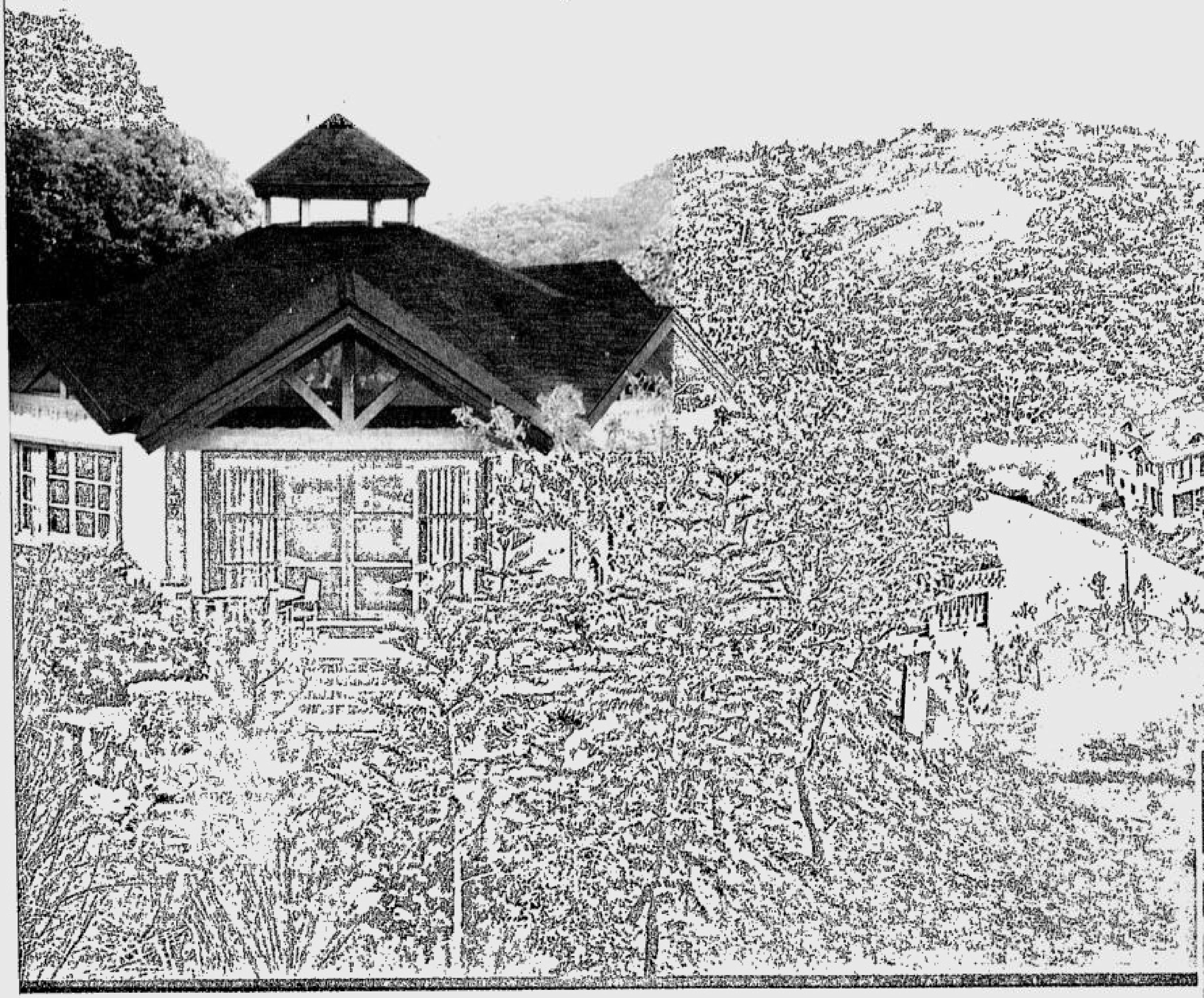

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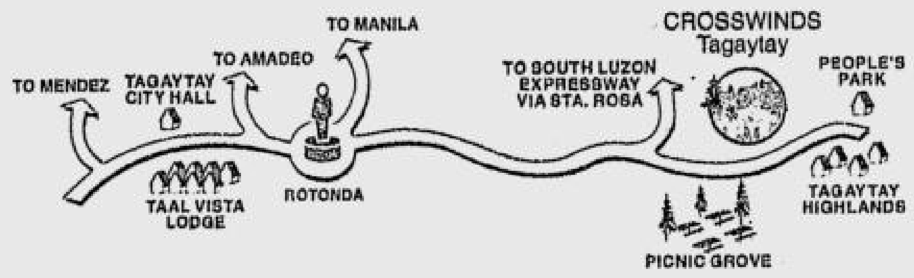
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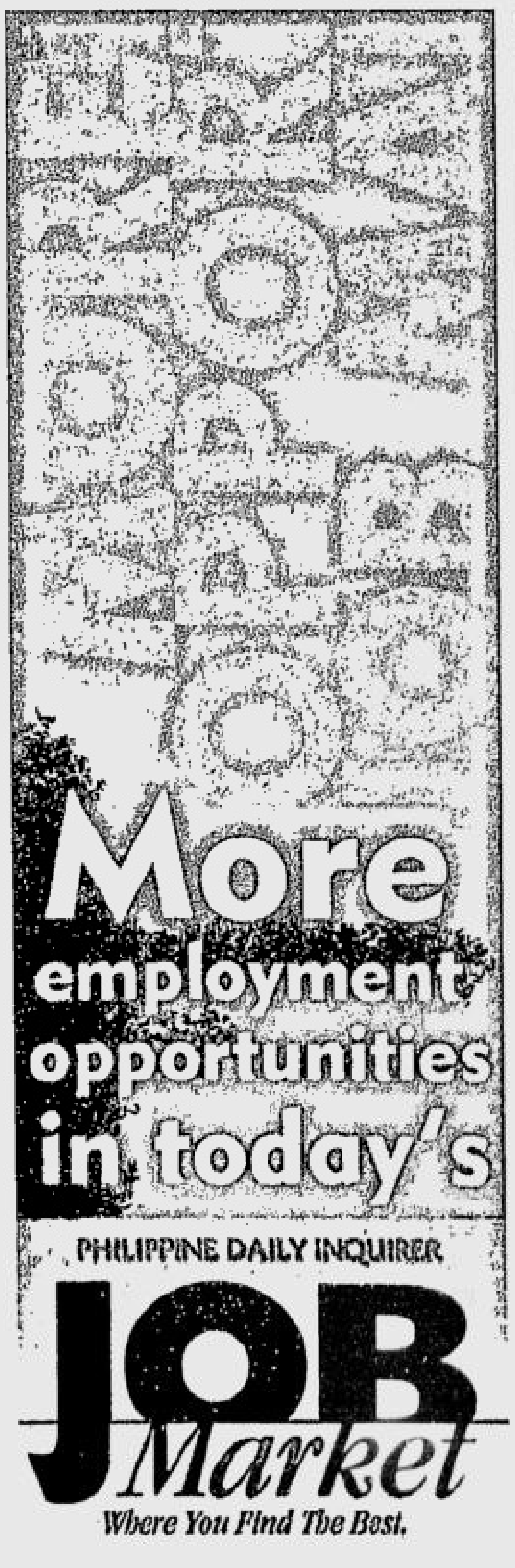

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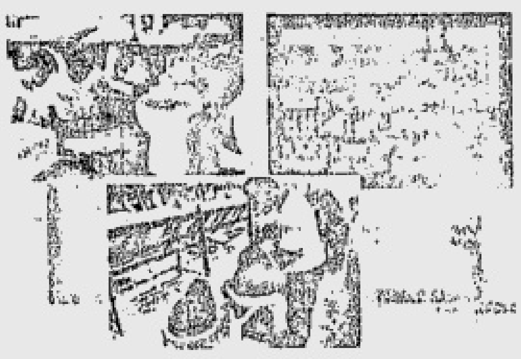
Humble Beginnings

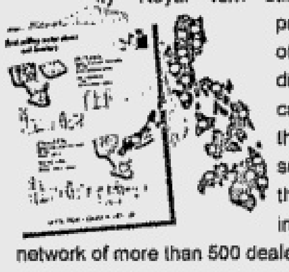
The beginnings of Royal Tern could be likened to David & Goliath. with Royal Tern as David, and an American brand that had the monopoly of the country's sanitary and bathroom wares' industry for decades, as Goliath. Rather than see the giant as a hindrance to his plans to get a share of the market, Royal Tern's chairman and founder, Mr. Rufino Lim, looked for an opportunity. The sky-high prices of the then famous brand gave him an idea. It's his belief that sanitary and bathroom products are highly essential to daily comfort and living, so every home should be able to afford one. Inspired by that belief, Royal Tern molded its very first pail flush toilet bowl in 1989, supplying the requirements of the low-end markets. Eventually, Royal Tern broadened its reach, targeting the middle classes, offering them more models, with better quality and upgraded functionality.



Did you know...
Thomas Crapper, a British plumber, developed a type of flushing toilet in 1872. He perfected the cistern - the tank that holds the water for flushing and made flushing quieter.

Silent Invasion

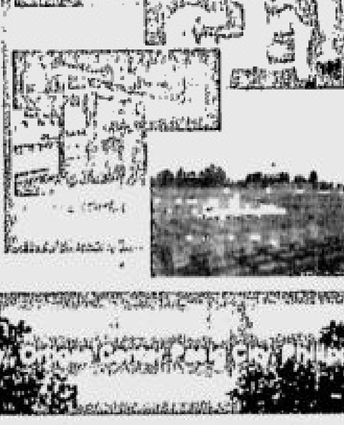
Royal Tern deviated from the usual strategy of other companies who employ extensive advertising, using every available medium to achieve popularity. Royal Tern utilized a different kind of promotion. It built a network of more than a hundred distributors who are strategically located in key areas in the country. Through years of support and incentives to these distributors, they were, in turn, able to build their own network of more than 500 dealers. These partners have proven and continue to prove that Royal Tern with its excellent quality at par with the best in the business, but at a more co-efficient price, requires no hard selling to the Filipino customers, who are considered to be one of the most intelligent and meticulous buyers, who demanded for best quality at an affordable price.



Committed People, Better Facilities, Bigger Capacities

In its increasing commitment towards excellence, Royal Tern continues to invest on its people and facilities From time to time, it sends its technical workforce in other countries to expose them to the new trends in design, and the best in technologies and techniques which they could apply and combine in their own manufacturing ingenuity and innovativeness.

Royal Tern's manufacturing plant is also equipped with the latest facilities - a new 80-meter long German-made tunnel kiln that could churn out over a million units annually



Did you know...
The average toilet is flushed eight times a day

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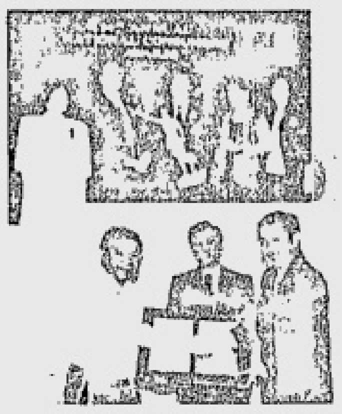
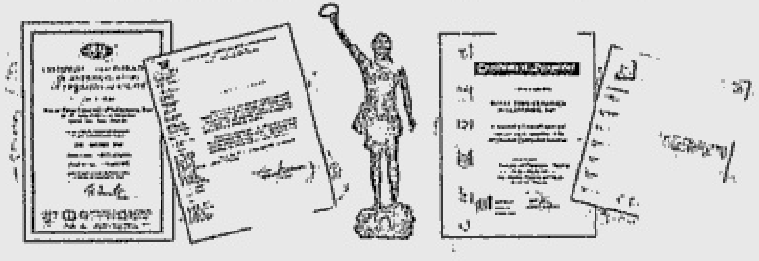
Royal Tern's inclusion in the prestigious roster of ISO-certified companies since 2002, and as recipient of "Most Outstanding Manufacturer" awards conferred by the Consumer Union of the Philippines for four consecutive years, have further cemented the public's confidence and trust on Royal Tern's products.



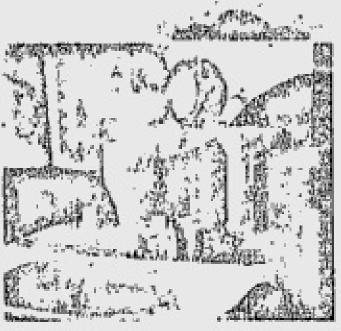
Upper Photo. Royal Tern awarding of Consumers Union of the Philippines. Lower Photo: Royal Tern Ceramics Inc. receives the highest award for product excellence from the ISO 9001 president

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
ISO 9001/2000



Did you know...
During the Industrial Revolution, when so many lived in unsanitary living conditions people tossed waste out their windows and shouted the warning 'Gardez L'eau' (literally "watch out for the water"). This is the origin of the British word 'Loo' which means toilet.

Lifetime Commitment, Expansion Plans



Royal Tern's achievement in just a short span of 16 years are remarkable. To its credit Royal Tern is the first to introduce in the local market the 4-liter per Flush Water Closet and the *Saveflush* push-button design in the economy models, making them the most environment-friendly among its contemporaries.

Customers can also count on Royal Tern's Lifetime Free Service and Lifetime Warranty on Color to dissuade false publicity that Royal Tern's color fades overtime.

After acquiring a stronghold of the lower to middle class markets in the Visayas and Mindanao regions and in many parts of Luzon, Royal Tern has started to focus on its high-end product lines, and is eyeing posh areas for its expansion

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MEMORIES EXPO
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez preside over the release of doves during the opening of the Memories Expo held on Oct. 25-26 at the Bonifacio Shrine beside the Manila City Hall. Organized by the INQUIRER in cooperation with the City of Manila, the exposition is an exhibit dedicated to the death care industry. Releasing the doves are (from left) Beth Fabian, marketing director of Ever Memorial Garden ; Mayor Atienza; Sandy Prieto; Pat Garcia, chairman of the board of Manila North Green Park; Rey Talatala, president, Elysium Garden; and Mario Martinez, vice president for marketing of Magnificat Ventures.

Corruption jacking up electricity cost – ADB

By Doris C. Dumlao

YOU WONDER WHY YOUR ELECTRICITY bill is so high? It's because of corruption, says the Asian Development Bank.

A new study by the bank warns that "deeply rooted" corruption is jacking up costs of power projects in the Philippines, delaying their implementation and providing Filipino households and businesses with expensive but unreliable electricity services.

"If unmitigated, the growing negative perception will adversely affect the inflow of investments into the sector," the ADB said in a study assessing its assistance to the local power sector as a lead development partner over the last 30 years.

It acknowledged that the bank's assistance program had failed in helping to provide the country with reliable and affordable electricity as well as a financially viable power sector and pledged to do better.

The bank lamented that corruption existed even in ADB-supported power projects, putting the multilateral lender's own reputation at risk.

"ADB's support of sector reforms and privatization exposes ADB to corruption-related risks, which highlights the need to carry out such reforms and privatization openly and transparently," the study said.

Nevertheless, the study said the ADB should continue to support the sector, particularly its transformation to a well-regulated, competitive sector that is financially viable.

The ADB study, which devoted a 13-page appendix on corruption using inputs from Transparency International, said corruption was contributing directly to higher costs of electricity. It noted that household electricity rates in the Philippines were the third highest after Japan and Hong Kong and were two to three times more expensive than in most other countries.

It said corruption was involved in almost all phases of a project, from tendering and bidding to operation and maintenance as well as privatization and awarding of independent power producing contracts.

"The relatively large number of alleged corruption incidences at the stage of privatization implementation might have been driven partly by some special interest groups opposed to the privatization of the power sector or commercial competitors," it said.

The efforts to circumvent procedures designed to prevent corruption by some individuals within executing agencies, financing agencies, government and contractors also lead to project delays, the study added.

The Bank said the country's corruption problem must be solved. Business and residential customers, particularly the poor, should not pay for corruption through higher electricity rates and taxes.

The relatively low conviction rates in corruption cases in the Philippines provide little deterrence to potential offenders, the study said. It cited as an example the case of the mothballed $2.3 billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, which was riddled with corruption charges and subjected to the arbitration and civil suits but still without major convictions.

Appeals court censures Garcia

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS upbraided GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia for his "bellicose and castigatory" behavior in taking retaliatory action against employees who had held rallies and demonstrations to protest alleged irregularities at the Government Service Insurance System.

In a ruling dated Oct. 18 released on Wednesday, the court threw out Garcia's motion for reconsideration of an earlier ruling in which the court had barred the GSIS from pursuing administrative charges and other actions – withholding of promotions, salary increases and other benefits – against 361 employees who had staged a rally at the GSIS main office in Quezon City in October last year.

Reiterating its first ruling, the court said that "the severe penalties prescribed for offenses with which petitioner's members were charged, to our mind, bespeak of bellicose and castigatory reaction from a government official who had been haled into the glare of public opinion to account for his official conduct."

Members of the Kapisanan ng Manggagawa sa GSIS brought the issue to the court after Garcia initiated administrative charges against them following the three-day rally. The employees had accused Garcia of mismanaging the GSIS, mishandling pension funds and entering into anomalous transactions, including the purchase of multi-million-peso painting by Juan Luna.

Although the court acknowledged Garcia's right to take administrative action, it said, "we find ample showing in the record that his exercise of the power vested under Section 45 of RA 8291 was tainted with the arbitrariness and vindictiveness against which prohibition was sought by petitioner."

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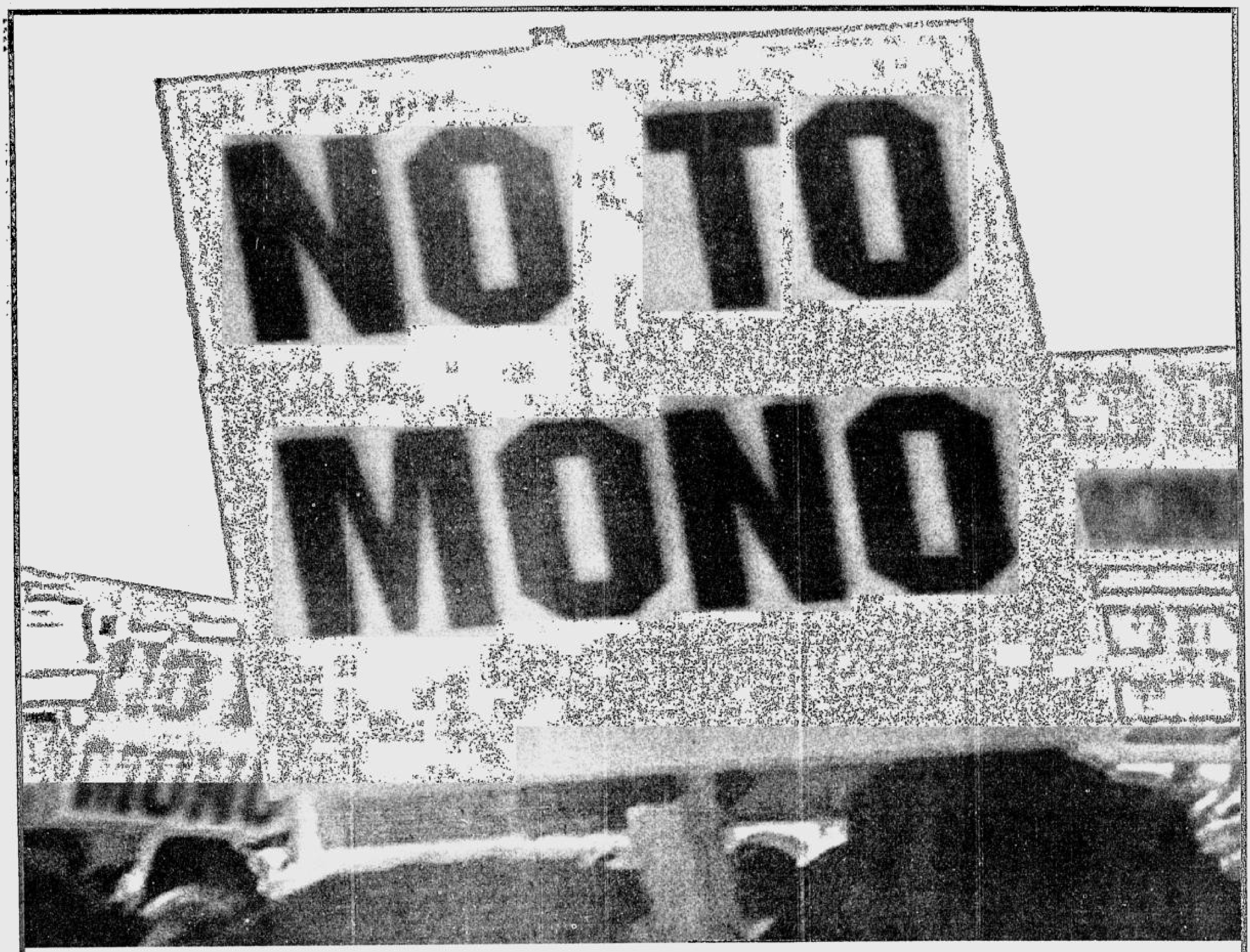

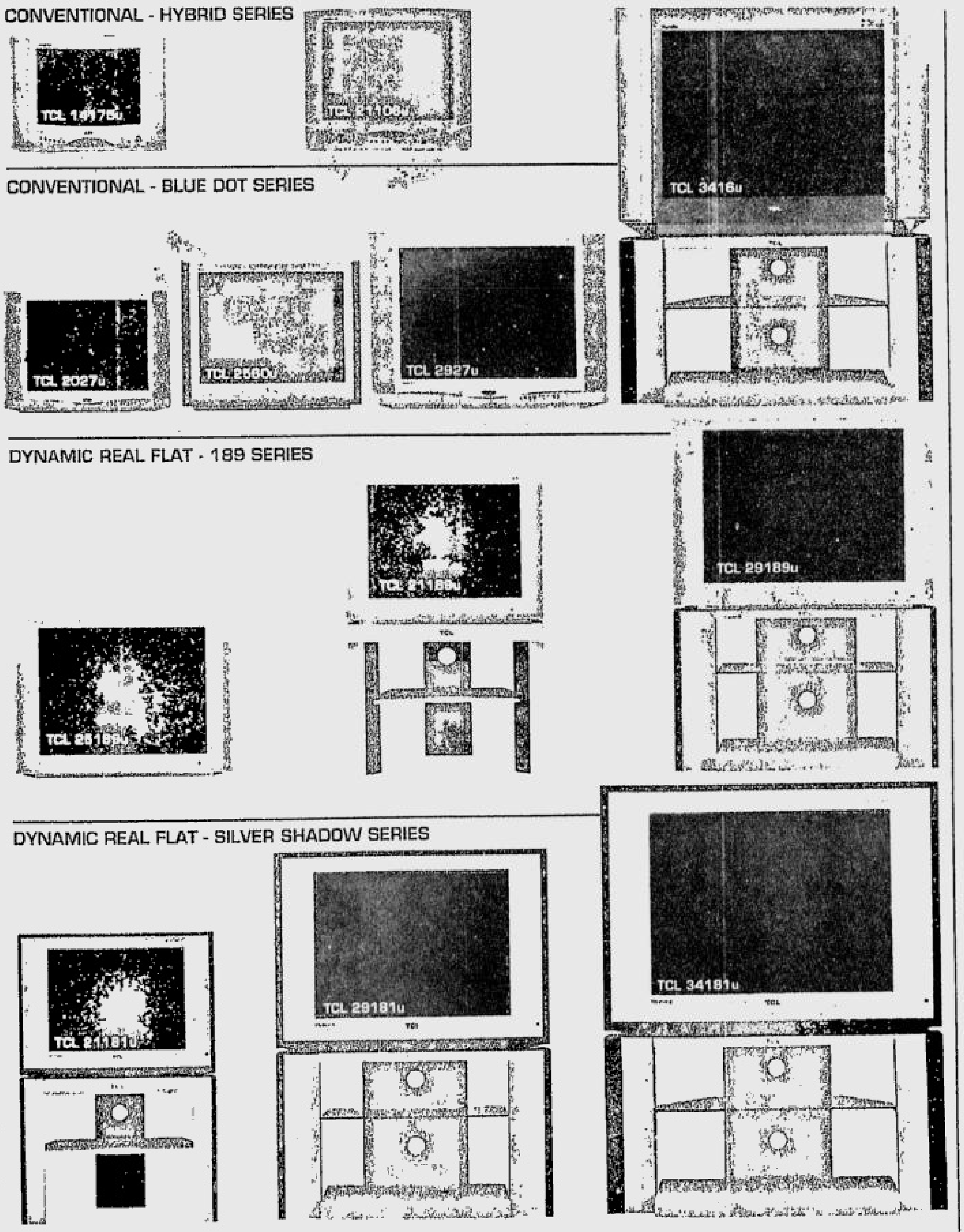
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Why Senate released Gonzales

AN UNWILLINGNESS TO RISK A POSSIBLY adverse ruling from the Supreme Court is the reason the senators decided to release National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, according to a Senate source.

The Senate has unanimously approved an interim report of the blue ribbon committee releasing Gonzales on humanitarian grounds.

Gonzales was ordered arrested by the Senate for refusing to divulge details of the P50-million lobbying contract with the United States-based Venable lobby group. He has been detained at the Philippine Heart Center for five weeks since taking ill at a Senate hearing into the issue on Sept. 21.

He has filed for a medical leave of absence to seek treatment in a hospital in Sweden.

The report was approved during the final minutes of the Senate session on Wednesday before Congress adjourned for an 11-day recess.

While strongly censuring Gonzales, the decision made Gonzales a free man even as the SC has yet to rule on his habeas corpus and bail petition.

"They (senators) are worried about the Supreme Court," the source said.

"It seems that the sentiment (in the high court) is that the senators should just iron out the problem among themselves. The senators also did not want the Supreme Court to meddle in the internal rules of the Senate," the source said.

Asked if the Senate was expecting an adverse SC ruling, the source said: "They do not know for certain but the senators opted not to take that risk."

A day after putting the touchy issue to rest, senators yesterday found themselves fending off criticisms they had buckled to Palace pressure.

"It's not a question of blinking. The reason why Secretary Gonzales was released was for humanitarian considerations," Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, told reporters.

He said the Senate physician's conclusion that Gonzales needed further medical attention was the "decisive factor."

Sen. Edgardo Angara predicted the SC would dismiss the Gonzales case as academic after the Senate decision.

Arroyo believes the Senate inquiry into the Venable contract achieved its goal as it was able to stop it.

In its report, the committee maintained that Gonzales should be held accountable for entering into an illegal contract and signing it without authority from the President.

It also did not rule out reopening the inquiry because of several unanswered questions, like the identity of the individuals who funded the lobby efforts and recommended Venable. *Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio*

Greenpeace ship making RP tour

THE RAINBOW WARRIOR, THE FAMOUS campaign ship of the Greenpeace environmental group, docks at 9 a.m. at Puerto Princesa today, bringing the urgent message of climate change and urging the Philippines to take immediate action.

The Rainbow Warrior – its name is derived from North American Cree Indian lore prophesying the descent from a rainbow of a mythical band of warriors to save a sick world – is on the third leg of a 10-week Asian Energy Revolution tour.

It will be in the Philippines for three weeks, visiting Manila, the "dirty energy" hot spots of Luzon, heritage sites in Palawan, and Negros and Iloilo, two provinces considered as models of clean energy.

Greenpeace will stage a three-day dive in the Tubbataha coral reef from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, following its Oct. 29 visit to the St. Paul's Subterranean River.

The vessel will be in Manila on Nov. 14 and 15, in Iloilo on Nov. 17 and 18, and in Negros Occidental on Nov. 19 and 20. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Correction

IN THE OCT. 26 issue, the front-page banner story—"People's court to try GMA"—misspelled the name of one of the presiding officers of the Citizens' Congress. The correct spelling of the officer's name is Nasser Marohomsalic—not Marohomsalik.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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18 feared dead in Diwalwal mine blast

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST 18 PERSONS were feared dead and two others were injured when a tunnel in the gold mining area of Mt. Diwata (Diwalwal) in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, collapsed on Wednesday night, authorities said Thursday.

Franco Tito, Mt. Diwata barangay captain, told the INQUIRER the cave-in occurred at about 10:20 p.m.

Tito said a loud explosion preceded the cave-in but it was not known if it was caused by dynamite.

Several miners were in the tunnel when the explosion occurred, Tito said.

Some of them managed to get out since they were near the tunnel entrance.

"Those who suffocated (from the smoke of the blast) were immediately given treatment," Tito said.

He said five bodies were initially recovered from the tunnel.

"They have been identified but the other victims have yet to be found," Tito said.

He said it was doubtful anyone else had survived the cave-in aside from those who managed to get out.

The police said they were trying to determine what had caused the explosion.

Antonio Cloma, operations officer at the Office of Civil Defense in Southern Mindanao, said they were trying to get a helicopter to the blast site but the weather was bad.

He said the chopper would ferry rescue workers and evacuate the victims.

Mt. Diwata, which is now under government control, has a history of violence where miners sabotaged tunnels to take control of the extraction of the gold.

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

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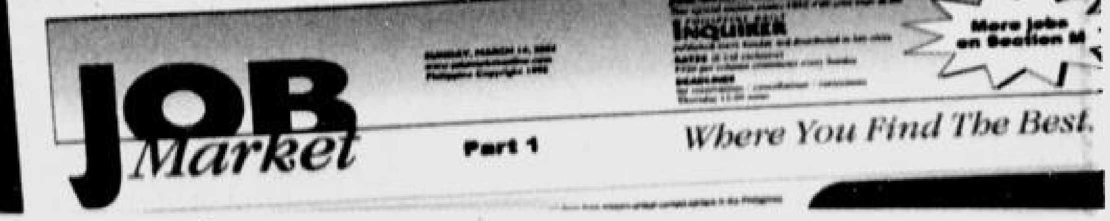


Boncodin testifies on 1-day release of fertilizer fund

From page A1

longer has the means and the people to follow through what the people will be doing with the funds. That's the duty of the DA," he said.

Hasty departures

On the day the fund was released, then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante wrote letters to members of the House of Representatives informing them that the Department of Agriculture was allocating certain sums for their farmer-constituents under the farm implements program, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Bolante and Lorenzo flew out of the country hours before the start of the Senate hearing on Oct. 26. This was the second time they snubbed the inquiry.

Their flight prompted the Senate to ask the Bureau of Immigration to place Lorenzo and Bolante on its watch list and to alert the chamber to their arrival so that they could be "bodily" brought to the hearing.

Boncodin confirmed that she would appear at the Senate hearing, but had to check in at the NKI before dawn Wednesday after her blood pressure shot up.

She quit the Cabinet after she and nine other senior officials and agency heads, collectively known as the Hyatt 10, called on the President to resign on July 8 amid lingering doubts about the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency. The President is accused of rigging last year's election. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Bolante's letter

The INQUIRER got hold of a photocopy of one letter Bolante sent to Rep. Ariel Olaño (1st Dist., Davao del Norte) on Feb. 3, 2004, informing him that the department had allotted P5 million for his farmer-constituents.

Some members of the House, governors and mayors were proponents of the project. Among those who reportedly received part of the fund were members of the House in Metro Manila where there are no farmlands.

A special report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism showed that the fund did not reach the farmers.

In her deposition, Boncodin also declared that the DBM released the fund for farm inputs, which could "incorporate" fertilizers, seeds and even insecticides. "But the actual purpose for which this is used will, of course, depend on the Department of Agriculture," she said.

The former Cabinet official said the DBM made the releases based on a formal request of the agriculture department.

Willie Villarama

Magsaysay visited Boncodin at the NKI in Quezon City after the hearing on Wednesday and was surprised to see former Rep. Willie Villarama, former presidential adviser on political concerns, there.

"I was surprised to find him there. Because other than the mother of Emy and the doctor, Willie was there," he said. "I don't know if they were close. I assume they know each other."

Magsaysay said that he could still invite Boncodin to the next hearing for further questions, "whenever she's available."

The senator said he was banking on her to attend the third and final hearing so she could "supplant her testimony."

No Palace control

Just like the case of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, Malacañang yesterday disavowed any responsibility for the hasty departure of Lorenzo and Bolante ahead of their scheduled appearance at the Senate.

"They are private citizens, we have no control over them," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita at a briefing. "If they are still in government, there could be some degree of control over them."

While waiting for his flight, Bolante reportedly stayed at the presidential lounge of Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The lounge is reserved for the use of the President, Vice President, former chief executives, ranking government officials and other dignitaries.

No special treatment

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi yesterday denied that Bolante was given special treatment when the latter left for the United States early Wednesday morning.

"There was no use of the presidential lounge, based on our investigation. That's misinformation," Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Cusi said the presidential lounge logbook did not show that Bolante, his fellow Rotarian, had used the lounge.

"And for the sake of argument, what was their (action officers') violation (if they had allowed Bolante to use the presidential lounge)?" Cusi said.

Cusi yesterday told the INQUIRER that the Miaa action officers on duty at the time, identified as Ed Tiotioen and Rommel Javier, denied they had let Bolante use the lounge.

"They told me that they saw him at the final security check '*at nagkakuwentuhan sila* (they exchanged stories),'" Cusi said, adding that he himself learned that Bolante was at the airport shortly after midnight.

Rotarians

Cusi said the Miaa had "no reason to hide" Bolante or "facilitate" his flight—Naia jargon for providing passenger assistance—since there was no hold-departure order against the former agriculture executive.

Cusi and Bolante are among the government officials identified with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. They all belong to the Rotary Club. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Gloria's own …

From page A1

dent-turned-detainee Joseph Estrada, comes now another joke book born out of the political crisis that President Macapagal-Arroyo is facing.

The "Hello Garci, Hello Ma'am" joke book, published by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, takes off from the "Gloriagate" scandal that rocked the nation in June.

The third PCIJ volume on political humor contains 90 pages of jokes that have been passed on through mobile phones, e-mails and blogs, along with funny and painfully sharp cartoon strips on the political situation.

"Our book on Eraptions was our best seller. But we have more jokes now, probably because more people have cell phones," PCIJ director Sheila S. Coronel said during the launch of "Hello Garci, Hello Ma'am: Political Humor in the Cellphone Age" in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

Coronel said proceeds from the sales of the Erap joke book were used to fund PCIJ investigations of alleged corruption in the Estrada administration.

"If you want us to investigate more now, then do buy this Hello Garci book," she asked more than 200 guests at the book launch.

Members of the opposition, former government officials and militant groups have called for either the resignation or ouster of Ms Arroyo since the disclosure of a wiretapped conversation that purportedly showed her asking Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the 2004 presidential election. Ms Arroyo has admitted that hers was the voice on the tape, but denied any wrongdoing.

Only days after gathering material for its latest joke book, the PCIJ was able to compile 10 pages of cell phone jokes on the Gloriagate scandal, according to Coronel.

The Philippines, dubbed as the text capital of the world, has over 30 million mobile phone users who pass jokes to their friends almost every day.

'I've Never Been to Me'

Loi Reyes Landicho landed on Page 49 of the "Hello Garci, Hello Ma'am" book with her altered lyrics to Charlene Duncan's "I've Never Been to Me."

"Please lady, please lady, please just walk away; and we don't see the need to tell you why you're better gone today. We can see so much of you still living in our eyes. But we won't share a part of our weary heart that's tired of your million lies …

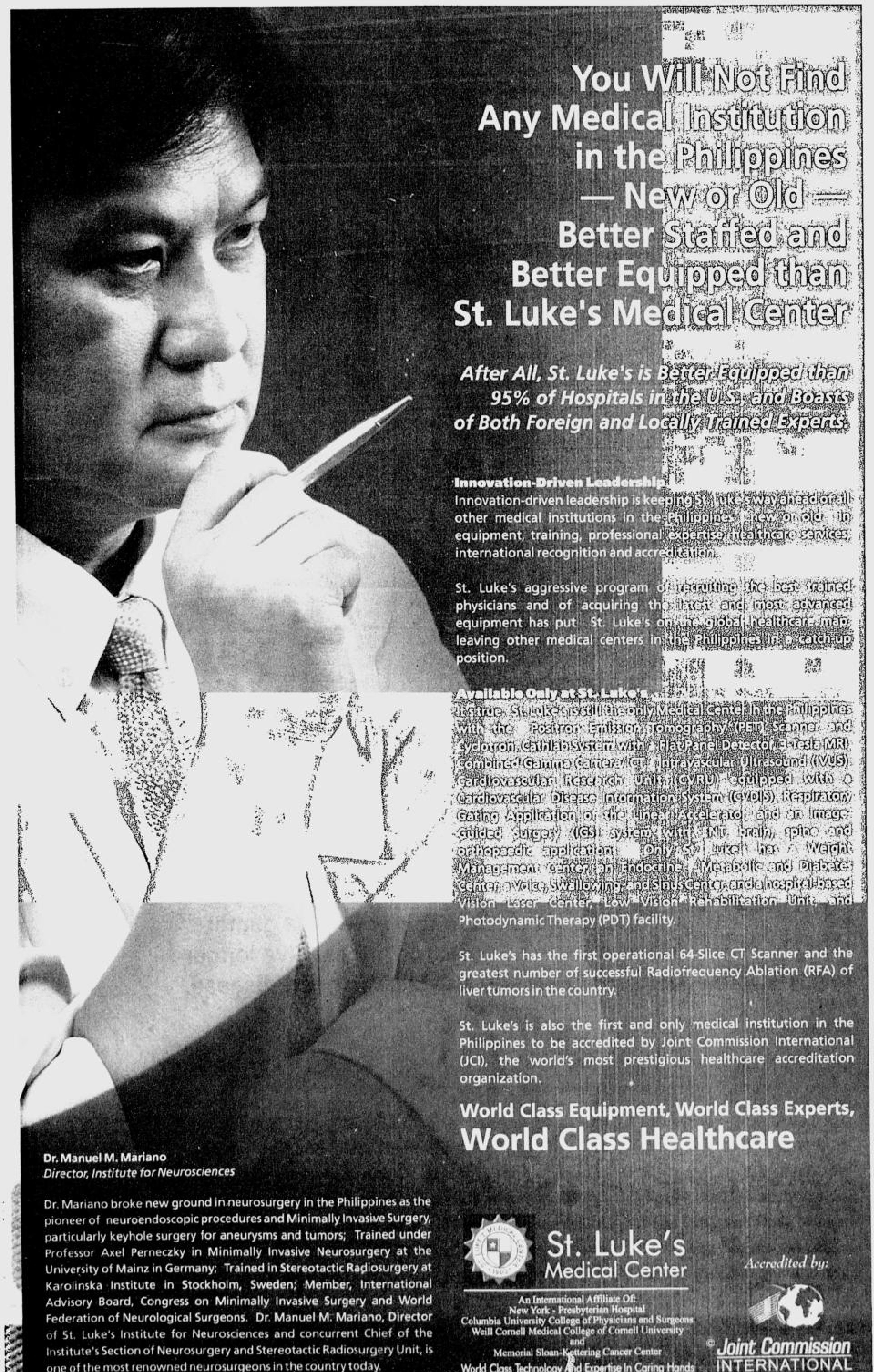
"You talked in Ilonggo in Iloilo and showed 'em what you've got. You've been hailed by 'jueteng' kings and you've made some calls that a candidate ain't supposed to do … You've been to the Palace, but you've never been to us."

Jon Santos a hit

During the book launch, Gary Granada entertained guests with his trademark sociopolitical commentaries in song. But it was comedian Jon Santos, mimicking Armida Siguion-Reyna, who sent the audience howling in laughter.

Cracking up during the book launch were Hyatt 10's Teresita "Ging" Deles and Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, two Cabinet officials who resigned in July and called on Ms. Arroyo to step down.

The joke book sells for P190 in bookstores.



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Gov't bans duck-raising …

From page A1

Catbagan also announced that the sale and delivery of ducks from one province to another would need a permit from the BAI, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture.

Project Blue

"We have to clear that the fowl they will transport is healthy. The BAI has also injected vaccines to workers directly involved in the farms," he said at a press conference.

The measures are part of Project Blue, a multisectoral task force that will control the raising of ducks, especially in areas near the migratory bird zones.

Project Blue has been set up by the DA, BAI, Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators, United Broiler Raisers Association and local government units.

The task force will soon implement other preventive measures such as foot baths in international airports nationwide.

Communication campaign

Speaking at the Eco-minds Pacific Forum in Makati City, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an intensified communication campaign on how Filipinos could help prevent the entry and spread in the country of H5N1.

The communication campaign called on government offices to come out with:

- Maps of threatened areas where migratory birds could be.
- List of dos and don'ts when in contact with the birds.
- List of avian flu symptoms and procedures to take when infection is suspected.
- Communication materials, plugs and advertising.
- Broadcast releases of bird flu inspection and screening procedures by government agencies led by the DA.

The President's order came a day after she visited a bird sanctuary on Olango Island in Cebu the other day.

55 wetlands

Besides Olango, the priority areas for surveillance include the so-called fly zones of migratory birds in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Quezon and Narra towns in Palawan, Candaba swamp in Pampanga, Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte, Aparri in Cagayan, Himamaylan in Negros Occidental, Magat Dam in Isabela, Lake Mainit in Caraga, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Panay Island—Roxas, Capiz; Bulan and Matnog towns in Sorsogon, General Santos City, Naujan town in Mindoro Oriental and the Liguasan Marsh in Cabacan in Cotabato.

"(W)e are expanding the surveillance to another 35 areas," Ruben Pascual, coordinator of the Philippines' National Avian Influenza Task Force, told Reuters after the task force briefed business and civil society leaders on the potential impact of bird flu.

The DA has allocated an additional P5 million for the purchase of equipment that could easily detect the avian flu on infected fowl.

"The Department of Health knew this and is very prepared and just ready if it hits us," said Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban.

"We have also directly coordinated with the local government units to fully impose our preventive measures."

Border controls

Panganiban said border controls would be imposed against the trade of wild birds from bird flu-infected countries.

Among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, only the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore have remained free of the avian flu. Thailand, Burma, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia have been infected with the virus.

"We see the threats coming from two things—migratory birds and smuggling of game fowl, live poultry or exotic birds coming from avian influenza-affected countries," Pascual said

Pascual, who represents the commercial poultry industry in the task force, said it was stressing the need to raise public awareness of the dangers of bird flu and to secure areas where there are thousands of migratory birds.

He appealed to the public to report smuggling of wild birds through the country's long and loosely patrolled maritime borders in Mindanao—the route for 500 parrots from Indonesia that were discovered and destroyed in April.

Poultry industry officials said the Philippines would need to raise $20 million to $30 million to prepare for the possible entry of the bird flu virus should a pandemic break out.

"We have initially asked for P175 million ($3.2 million) but we may need more to raise awareness through an education and information campaign and train more health teams to deal with it," Pascual said.

Not raining when Noah built ark

The health department has upgraded 21 hospitals with isolation rooms, antiflu drugs and protective gear.

Luningning Villa, program manager of the health department's center for infectious diseases, said the department had requested an extra P30 million from the agency running the state lotteries to buy equipment, including masks and gloves, for health personnel.

"Our target is to keep the Philippines free from bird flu," said Villa. "So let's plan ahead. After all, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

She said the government had more than P300 million in its bird flu response budget but no money had been allocated to compensate farms hit by the deadly virus.

P160-B poultry industry

Pascual said the government might need to pay P350 million to indemnify farmers in one town alone in Pampanga province, a key poultry region, if the area were affected by bird flu.

The Philippines has a P160-billion-a-year poultry industry, including ducks and game fowl. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Reuters*

How to spot avian influenza

From page A1

with inputs on how to spot birds that might be infected and how to keep domestic fowl from being infected by migratory birds.

"Bird watchers may help a lot in spotting birds (with these signs). They are the ones who have the telescopes and could easily spot these symptoms," Defensor said at a news conference.

Other symptoms of birds that may need closer attention include sneezing, coughing, nasal discharges, excessive thirst, fever, diarrhea and death.

"We are asking those who keep domestic fowl near the wetlands [that become the home of the migratory birds during the winter in the northern hemisphere] to keep their ducks and geese away," Defensor said.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suicide bomber kills 5; Israel strikes Gaza

GAZA—ISRAELI PLANES STRUCK THE GAZA strip on Thursday and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved a major ground offensive in the West Bank after a suicide attack killed five Israelis.

The suicide bombing in the coastal city of Hadera—the first such attack since Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip last month—dealt a serious blow to an eight-month-old truce and international hopes for a revival of peacemaking.

Security sources said Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz decided on a large scale military operation in the northern West Bank against Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing.

Israel would also hit Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip, the sources said.

"We will do everything we can to strike out the infrastructure of the organization that carried out this act of terror," Mofaz told reporters.

No timetable was given for the West Bank offensive.

Islamic Jihad said the attack was to avenge Israel's killing of one of its top West Bank commanders in a raid on Monday. The 20-year-old bomber came from a town in the northern West Bank.

Israeli aircraft launched three strikes on the Gaza Strip early on Thursday in what the Army said were attacks aimed at stopping militants firing rockets into the Jewish state from the territory. There were no reports of casualties.

It was the third day of air raids in the worst flare-up of violence since Israel withdrew from Gaza last month after 38 years of occupation.

The suicide bomber launched the attack in front of a sandwich stand in the main outdoor market in Hadera, a frequent target of attacks in a 5-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Medics said five people were killed and 30 were wounded.

The attack was the first bombing in the Jewish state since Aug. 28, when a suicide bomber wounded 20 people in Beersheba.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the bombing and pledged to try to salvage the truce he engineered earlier this year. "It harms the interest of the Palestinian people and leads to expansion of the cycle of violence," he said.

Israel, which suspended security contacts after three young Jewish settlers were killed in a West Bank ambush last week, canceled a meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian transport ministers.

Islamic Jihad, sworn to Israel's destruction, had vowed revenge after Israeli troops shot dead West Bank commander Loai Assadi, the most senior militant killed since the truce began.

Israel and the United States said the Palestinian Authority needed to rein in militants to push forward stalled peace talks.

Abbas has so far preferred to negotiate with armed groups.

"The Palestinians need to prepare some real action to stop terrorism if they want to move the process forward," said a top Israeli official, who declined to be identified. "They condemn every attack and we bury our dead."

Leaders from Islamic Jihad and several other militant groups in Gaza rejoiced at news of the bombing and vowed to continue responding to Israeli attacks against Palestinians despite the ceasefire.

Reuters

China says no human bird flu as girl dies

BEIJING/HONG KONG—A GIRL WITH FLU-LIKE symptoms has died in a Chinese village where a bird flu outbreak had been reported, a Hong Kong newspaper said on Thursday, but Beijing said it had received no reports of human cases.

Three people on a French island off Africa were being tested on Wednesday in what appeared to be the first suspected human cases outside Asia of bird flu, which experts fear could mutate to spread easily from human to human and become a pandemic.

Indonesia was investigating possible new bird flu cases on the holiday island of Bali after the death of several domestic fowl, an agriculture ministry official said.

He Yin, 12, and her 10-year-old brother fell ill about a week ago after eating a chicken that had died from an unspecified illness in the Chinese village of Wantang, southern Hunan province, the South China Morning Post reported.

So far there was no evidence linking the Chinese girl's death to the outbreak of bird flu and none of the adults in her family had shown any flu symptoms, the newspaper said. Doctors told her family she had died from fever.

China's Xinhua new agency said the health ministry had received no reports of human cases of the disease and a ministry spokesperson said he doubted the girl's death was due to bird flu.

"We haven't received any relevant report on that and I have no information if health authorities there have done autopsy on the girl either," he said.

"To be honest, we don't even know how the chicken died."

China reported the Hunan outbreak this week following cases in Inner Mongolia in the north and Anhui province in the east.

It said the outbreaks had been brought under control.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said his government was taking effective measures to prevent the spread of the deadly H5N1 strain, including massive culling of birds, quarantines and vaccinations of residents in areas where there were outbreaks.

The World Health Organization's China representative said it had contacted the health ministry for more information on the Hunan girl.

"The key is, the moment you have an outbreak in poultry, you have to intensify human surveillance in that area," Henk Bekedam said, adding China would probably see more outbreaks.

"In the winter, the virus can survive longer outside its own host … so we expect more cases, especially in this part of the world," he said.

Bekedam added that in Europe, the virus could still be eliminated, but Asia's best hope was that it would be contained.

H5N1 has killed more than 60 people in four countries in Asia and been found among birds in Croatia, Romania, Turkey and Russia, but no human cases have been reported in Europe.

There is no evidence yet that the disease can be transmitted easily among humans, but experts fear it is only a matter of time. China, with its huge numbers of both humans and poultry, often living close together, is seen as a major area of risk.

The Asian Development Bank says even a relatively mild pandemic could cost Asia up to $110 billion from the effects of reduced consumption, investment and trade.

South Pacific leaders ended a two-day summit in Port Moresby on Thursday with a plan to pool resources to combat bird flu.

Australia, the largest member of the 16-nation Pacific Forum, will contribute A$8 million to fight an outbreak of the disease in nations like Papua New Guinea, which shares a border with Indonesia where four people have died of avian flu.

Other deaths have been reported in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Reuters

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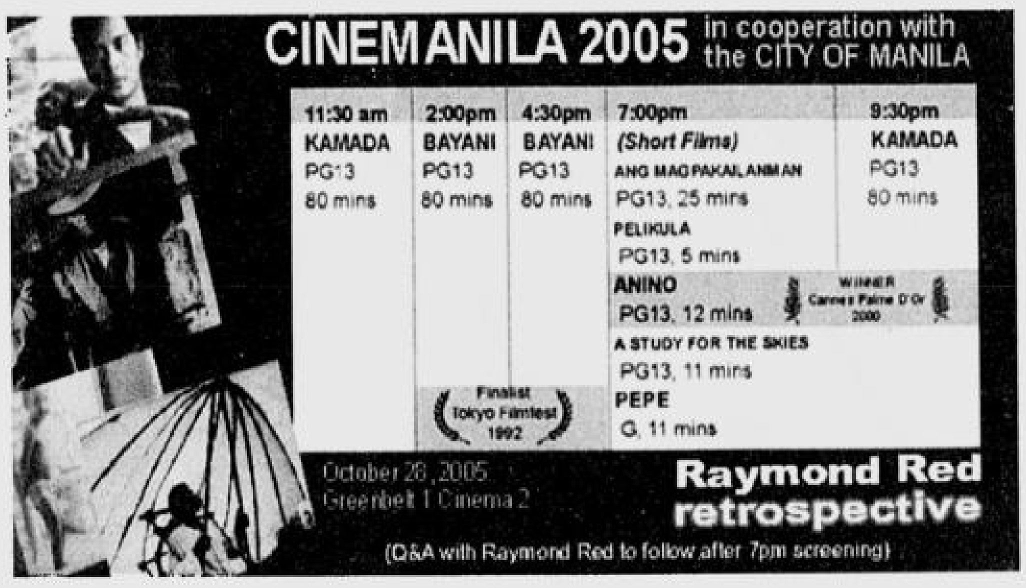

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More than bird flu, AIDS, diabetes is Asia's greatest health risk, WHO says

SYDNEY—DIABETES IS A greater health problem in Asia than bird flu and AIDS combined and has become a destructive "global diabetes tsunami," a World Health Organization (WHO) expert said Thursday.

Professor Paul Zimmet said while regional governments were concentrating on the potential risk from the bird flu and AIDS/HIV viruses, diabetes was already a silent epidemic in their midst.

"It's really slipped under the radar," Zimmet said. "The rates of diabetes in Asia now exceed those in Europe, where it has been seen as more of a health problem.

"About five percent of the adult population in Europe has diabetes. In Asia it's 10-12 percent and that goes up to 30-40 percent in the Pacific island nations."

Zimmet, director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Diabetes, presented data to an international conference in the Thai capital Bangkok this week showing diabetes kills twice as many people as infectious diseases.

"This is a global diabetes tsunami, a catastrophe that will become the health crisis of the 21st century and could reduce life expectancy globally for the first time in 200 years," he said.

Zimmet said Asia was at the heart of the crisis because of the "Coca-Colanization" of its culture, with traditional rice-based diets increasingly replaced by fatty, sugar-laden Western foods.

The professor, who also heads the Melbourne-based International Diabetes Institute, said one of the most worrying trends about the increase in diabetes was its prevalence among young people.

"In Asia we're now seeing type two diabetes—the adult form of the disease—in children for the first time," he said.

"More children are becoming obese because they're not taking any physical activity at school. They're sitting at computers all day.

"Academic pressure has pushed physical activity out of school curricula."

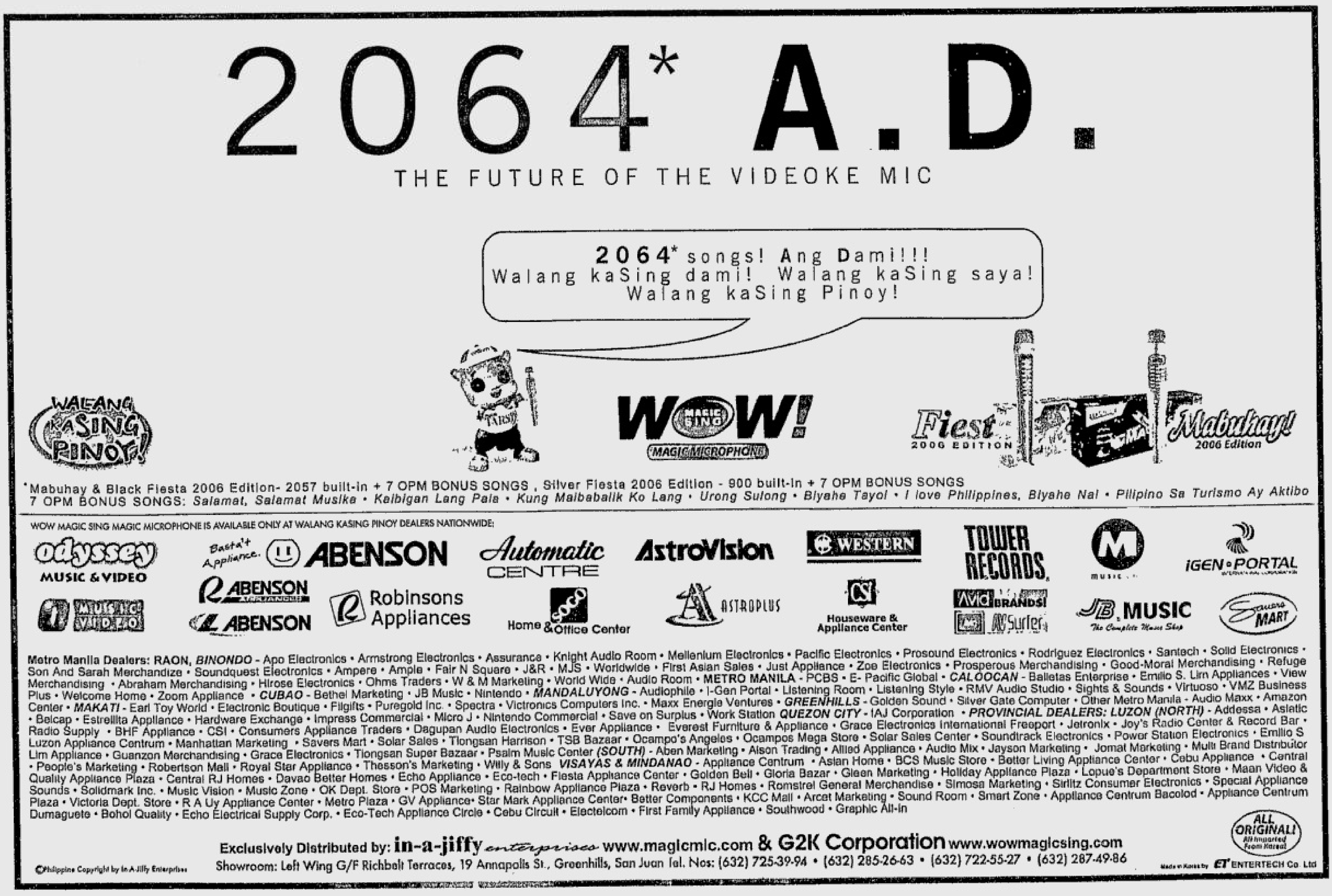
Diabetes is caused by a problem with insulin, a hormone that stimulates the body's cells into absorbing the energy source glucose from the blood.

It can lead to blindness, nerve damage, heart problems and kidney disease.

Type one diabetes develops in early childhood, while type two usually occurs later in life and has been called the "lifestyle disease" because of its links to obesity.

Zimmet said Asian governments were not taking the diabetes threat seriously, although he praised moves by Singapore to increase exercise rates among school students.

AFP



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Software giant Microsoft plans online book library

SAN FRANCISCO—US software colossus Microsoft announced plans on Wednesday to launch an online library of books and other written works.

A "beta" version of MSN Book Search will go into service online next year, Microsoft said in a written release.

"We are excited to be working with libraries worldwide to digitize and index information from the world's printed materials," said Christopher Payne, corporate vice president of MSN Search.

"We believe people will benefit from the ability to not just view a page, but to easily act on that data in contextually relevant ways, both online in the search experience and in the applications they are using."

Microsoft will start its library with books in the public domain then expand it to include other works, according to the company. *AFP*

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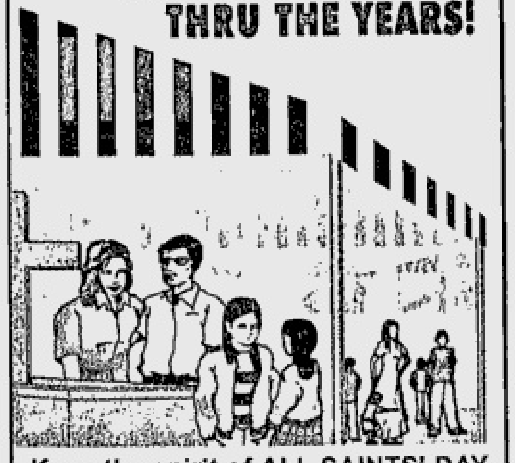

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UN meet pledges cash to help quake survivors; shortfall baffles Pakistan

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—THE WORLD'S failure to come up with quick cash to help save hundreds of thousands of Pakistani quake survivors before winter sets in left relief officials on the ground baffled and upset on Thursday.

"We are still of the view that the international community lacks full comprehension of the catastrophe that is looming large," said United Nations chief aid coordinator Rashid Khalikov.

"We are talking life," he said a day after UN conference drew $580 million in aid promises—but only $15.8 million in emergency relief with the harsh Himalayan winter only a few short weeks away and countless people still living in rubble.

"It may sound strange that we are still talking life saving two weeks after the disaster, when search and rescue operations have largely finished," Khalikov said in the destroyed city of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir.

"But communities that live in the affected areas have become so vulnerable that it is absolutely important for us to reach them with help," he said. "And we will stay in this life-saving mode, I'm afraid, for the next six months."

Relief workers fear as many people will die of hunger and exposure during the bitter winter as in the Oct. 8 quake which killed at least 54,000 people in Pakistan and 1,300 in Indian Kashmir.

Winter will descend in four weeks. By then, around three million people will have to be got under shelter and food stockpiled to see them through to spring.

It is an operation experts say is more difficult than that which followed last year's Indian Ocean tsunami, a catastrophe which prompted a torrent of aid.

However, all but a small amount of the money promised at a UN conference in Geneva on Wednesday was for reconstructing the flattened villages of Pakistani Kashmir and neighboring North West Frontier Province.

"It's a little bit frustrating, to tell you the truth," said World Food Program spokesperson Khaled Mansour.

"Compared with other crises of same magnitude this is more complex in terms of logistics and the response of donors has definitely been disappointing."

Starting on reconstruction work is months away.

"It is, in my view, not right to sit with reconstruction money for one year from now if we're not sure whether those people will be alive one year from now," UN aid chief Jan Egeland said in Geneva.

Some UN agencies had run out of cash, Egeland said after a conference preceded by a clamour of complaints that the world was not helping enough.

Earlier this week, Egeland wrote in the Wall Street Journal: "The way we currently finance humanitarian aid is anything but speedy. Delays cost lives. We can, and must, do better."

Khalikov said UN officials would now have to go directly to governments, especially Muslim countries in the Middle East, to plead for cash.

"I am sure we have enough capacity to respond, we just need funding," he said. *Reuters*

S. Koreans face new worries over nat'l dish kimchi

By Lee Jin-joo

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN CONCERNS ABOUT how safe it is to eat kimchi are growing after authorities banned imports of the spicy pickled dish from China last week because samples contained parasites found in human excrement.

An initial scare triggered by reports—later discounted—that Chinese exports of the Korean staple may contain unsafe amounts of lead created a boom for domestic producers last month.

The latest one is driving South Koreans to ask whether kimchi will ever be safe unless you pickle your own.

Typically radish or cabbage packed with garlic, ginger and hot peppers and then pickled, kimchi is eaten with most meals in South Korea. Many have kimchi pots for home pickling and even a special refrigerator to keep the pungent stuff at the right temperature and prevent it from tainting other foodstuffs.

The Korea Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of kimchi imported from China last Friday. It ordered all unsold products destroyed and a recall of sold merchandise.

Quarantine officials said they had found three kinds of parasitic eggs in samples from nine of 16 brands of Chinese-made kimchi. They are also conducting tests on domestically packaged kimchi sold commercially for signs of contamination.

"The eggs found in the kimchi products were from parasite species that exist in soil," said an official with the food administration, Rhee Chang-ju. The agency has said the use of human excrement as fertilizer could be behind the contamination.

"The parasite eggs could have found their way into the cabbage through human waste or contaminated water," Rhee said by telephone.

Kimchi demand has not diminished in South Korea, but people are more cautious about the kimchi served in restaurants, which turn to cheaper Chinese imports to boost razor-thin margins.

Eateries have tried to attract and keep customers with signs reading "We serve kimchi made in Korea."

Prices of kimchi staples such as cabbage have risen as more South Koreans opt to make their own while domestic makers have seen sales soar, although they are paying more for cabbage, too.

Imports of Chinese-made kimchi, which is cheaper than the locally-made kind, have grown dramatically in recent years and restaurants and school cafeterias have increasingly switched.

This year's imports of kimchi from China to Oct. 20 reached 94,128 tonnes, up by about 30 percent from the same period last year, the food administration said. The 2005 imports had a value of about $40 million. *Reuters*

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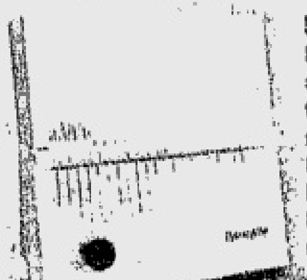

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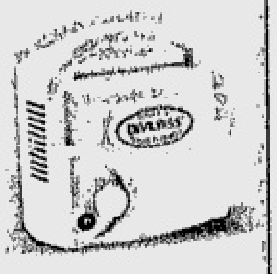

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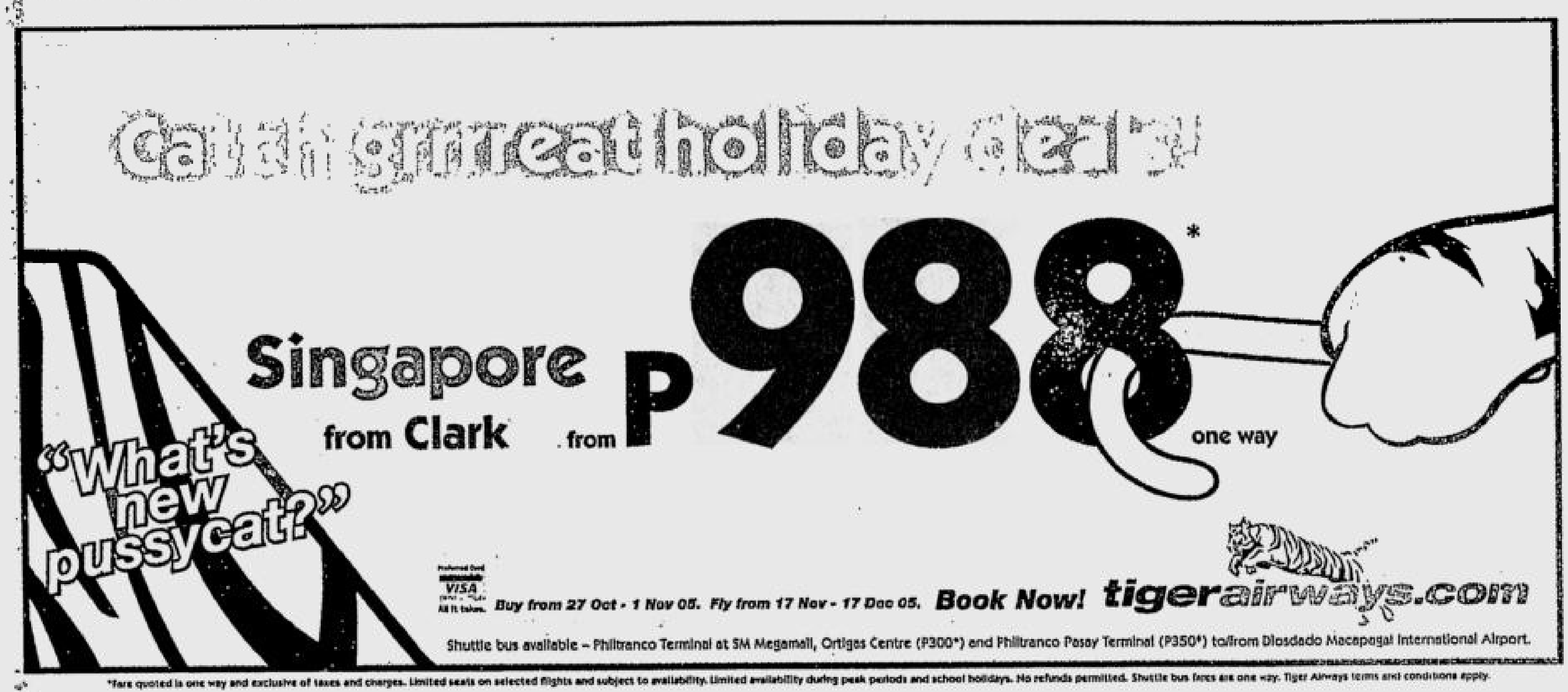
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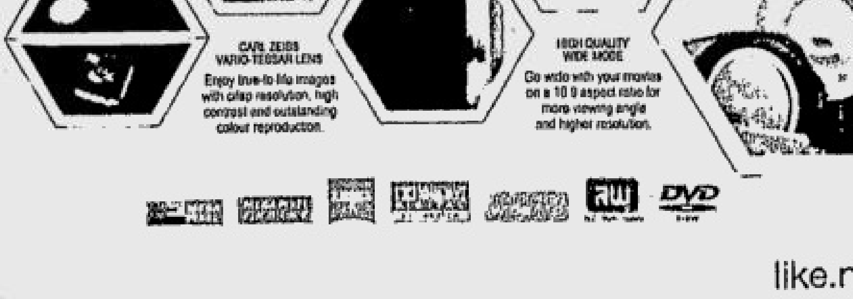

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OPINION

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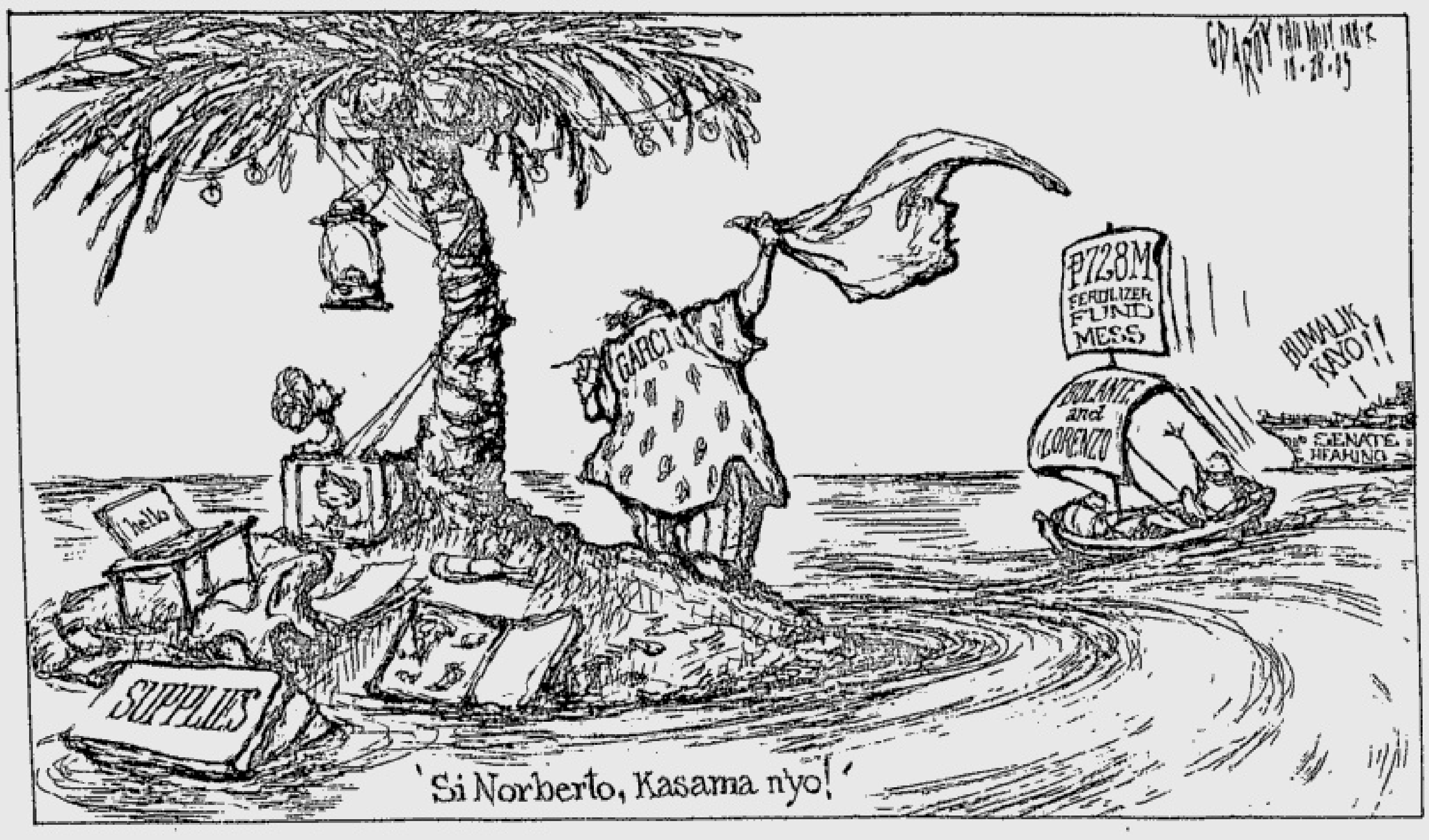
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EDITORIAL

A RIVER WILL ALWAYS FIND ITS WAY TO THE SEA. As it is with this law of nature, so it is with the search for truth. And what, exactly, is the truth being sought? Two things: whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the last elections, and whether or not in the wake of the "Hello, Garci" scandal, the administration embarked on a cover-up that continues up to the present.

Much as the administration wants to turn seeking the truth into a philosophical question (What, indeed, is truth? Palace philosophers regularly, and rhetorically, ask), these are concrete questions that can be answered with facts. These questions so concrete that every effort to prevent their being answered has been like building dams of straw to prevent the rushing of a river's waters to the sea.

The Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability created under the auspices of the Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan is just the latest in a series of inevitable manifestations of the public's frustration over efforts to prevent the ferreting out of the truth. As the Jesuit Province of the Philippines explained in its recently issued "guidelines": "Those who claim that the 'rule of law' was triumphant in the recent impeachment proceedings confuse proceduralism with law. While it is true that the procedures of law were fulfilled, the spirit of the law was subverted. Evidence was not allowed to emerge." The evidence is like water, and the evidence must head out to sea—that is, it cannot be prevented from reaching the public.

The Citizens' Congress will be composed of about 400 delegates coming from various sectors of society. Its convenors are Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera; Dr. Maria Serena Diokno; Sister Mary John Mananzan, OSB; Bro. Edmundo Fernandez, FSC (provincial of the De la Salle Brothers); Bishop Solito Toquero of the United Methodist Church of the Philippines—individuals known for their integrity and credibility. It will have a set of presiding officers (or a "presidium") composed of: former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.; Prof. Victoria Avena of the UP College of Law (and former commissioner of the PCGG); Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz Duremdes, secretary-general of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines; Bishop Alberto Ramento; former Obispo Maximo of the Philippine Independent Church; Bishop Dan Balais of the Philippines for Jesus Movement; Menchie Caragdag; and former Human Rights Commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic. They will be assisted by a team of "lawyer-presentors," initially consisting of Romeo Capulong, Neri Colmenares and Glenda Litong.

What will the Citizens' Congress do? It will gather, sift through and weigh the evidence that should have been presented in an impeachment trial, with the help of some members of the House impeachment team, and private lawyers who will serve as lawyer-delegates. Witnesses will be asked to give their testimony under oath. The Congress' findings and recommendations will then be presented to the public and in particular to religious institutions like the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the Association of Major Religious Societies of the Philippines, the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, the media, schools, Congress and the Ombudsman.

What the Congress will **not** do is hand down a verdict (there is a difference between verdicts and findings). While there may be confusion because of some of the statements of both the participants in the Congress and the spokespersons of the government, the Congress is certainly not a court, either in the formal or anti-establishment sense. The whole process is closer to the idea of a fact-finding commission than that of a tribunal. It cannot be a kangaroo court, because it makes no claim to being a judicial proceeding. What it is, though, is an example of a private initiative using the procedures of law to present and weigh evidence and come up with recommendations.

Administration officials can tear up all the papers they want, as they did with the Congress' invitation to the President to send a representative. But by doing so, they only prove themselves not only uncouth but also incapable of demonstrating a semblance of fair play, much like when the President dared her critics to impeach her and then made sure the process would not reach first base.

PET should decide poll protest to end crisis

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PEOPLE'S COURT, SNAP ELECTIONS, COALITION government—they're all dreaming. These are all wishful thinking.

Ate Glue will never participate in a trial by a people's court. The court cannot enforce a guilty verdict anyway. A snap election can be held only when there are presidential and vice presidential vacancies—and there are none. Ate Glue and Kabayan will not resign to create vacancies.

Coalition government—ah, that's what Ate Glue favors. She is willing to appoint opposition leaders to her Cabinet so they will not harass her until she finishes her term. But this is bribery, pure and simple, the same trick she used on congressmen to kill the impeachment complaint and on local government officials to get their support. And the opposition cannot accept this because that would be an admission that all they want is a share of the spoils and all their beautiful talk about love of country, justice and freedom are just that—talk.

"The only way we can get rid of GMA," joked a college professor, "is to learn from the people of Medieval Europe. When they could not stand their kings and queens anymore, they just chopped their heads off." That's what they did to King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, the queen who said, "Let them eat cake," when told that her subjects had no bread to eat. That's what they did to Mary Queen of Scots. That's what they did, in a manner of speaking, to the Romanovs of Russia, and that's what they did to Mussolini and his mistress. But the professor was just joking and he was by no means making any suggestion.

So the problem remains: How do you get rid of a President the people hate but who does not want to leave? There are a number of obvious ways but we want to take a constitutional route. Impeachment was one, but it was blocked by the House of Representatives. People are no longer eager to join another People Power because GMA's successor would be Vice President Noli de Castro and they consider him a cure that is worse than the disease.

Not many people realize it, but the answer lies with the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. Why? Because it will decide who between De Castro and Loren Legarda is the duly elected vice president. Since the people do not have much confidence in the competence of De Castro, we should have another, more competent, vice president and that seems to be Legarda.

Legarda claims she won the 2004 elections but was cheated, and that she can prove it. If she accomplishes that, then she would be the vice president and potential successor to GMA. Presumably, that would encourage another People Power to oust GMA because Legarda, unlike De Castro, would be expected to be better (and prettier) than GMA (at least she has no record of cheating, lying and stealing).

The trouble is that Legarda's election protest at the PET is moving too slowly to make the paranoids suspect that the justices are too old, too lazy, too overloaded or purposely slowing down the recount to favor De Castro. At the rate the protest is moving, the term of office would be over before the real winner is known, as has happened in many other poll protests. And that doesn't solve our present problem, does it?

That is why a solution to the present political crisis and economic slowdown is in the hands of the magistrates. If they can make the recount move faster then a decision can be made within a year. But the record of our electoral tribunals and the present progress of Legarda's poll protest do not give much hope for such optimism.

What I'm driving at is that the justices, for the sake of the nation and to end the crisis, should see it in their hearts to work faster, to abandon their usual pace, give the recount a little git-up-and-go, and give it priority over other cases because the welfare of the country, their country, depends on it.

* * *

The first consultation meeting in Cebu the other day of the GMA-appointed Consultative Commission was boycotted by the Cebu City chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and a militant group.

"It is a waste of time and money," said chapter president Alex Tolentino.

"The government is just wasting taxpayers' money for this body which was commissioned by President Macapagal-Arroyo" to write a constitution providing for a parliamentary-federal form of government, said Arman Perez of Bayan Muna.

The commission, headed by former UP president Jose Abueva, a loud advocate of a parliamentary-federal system, has been criticized by some of its own members for writing the draft of a new Charter before consulting the people.

Tolentino and Perez asked why the consultation was held at a very expensive hotel where farmers and the poor sector could not be heard. They said the Cebu meeting could easily have cost P1 million, a waste of money when the country is in a financial crisis. A meal at the Waterfront Hotel costs between P400 and P500 and a snack costs P200. A room at the hotel is at a minimum of P4,000 a night.

A commission member gets P2,000 per meeting. The commission meets 5 days a week, so that's P40,000 a month for each of the 49 members, plus transportation, hotel and representation allowances. The commission has a budget of P10 million until Dec. 15 but it is already asking for an increase.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

What is politics, this thing that is giving us so many problems?

Let's analyze it: "Poli" means many. "Tic" is a blood-sucking parasite. So "politics" means many blood-sucking parasites.

Doesn't that describe our politicians?

Doing tai'chi in Bellagio

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

I CHOSE TO BE A PROFESSOR BECAUSE I yearned for a life of contemplation, little knowing that half of a professor's time is spent grading examination booklets, attending meetings and checking up on half-prepared students, and that the most reflective decision a teacher makes is who to grade higher, the consistent plodders who "cross their t's and dot their lower-case j's" or the laidback dreamers who could achieve much if only they would wake up on time.

For the next month, however, I get to indulge my contemplative self in just about the most ideal place on earth for spiritual recharging: the Rockfeller Foundation's Study Center, located at the Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio, northern Italy. Ella Walker, American heiress and childless widow, bought it from the family of the Duke Ferdinando Serbelloni in 1928 and converted it into her private residence. She later re-married and became the Principessa della Torre e Tasso. Before she died in 1959, she bequeathed the villa to the Rockefeller Foundation. Dean Rusk, the foundation president shortly before he became JFK's secretary of state, accepted it in the spirit of the Principessa's last will, "for the promotion of international understanding" and "the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

The foundation decided that the best way to carry out her wish was to make the villa "a refuge for contemplation, writing and purposeful discussion—a place where scholars and other thoughtful people would be free from everyday demands."

The villa sits atop a hill, technically a promontory overlooking Lake Como, and across the lake are the mountains. My room is at the corner of the main building, with a balcony overlooking both prongs of the lake. I am also assigned a separate study, a small one-room cottage (named the "San Francesco") on an isolated ridge, much like the retreats used by medieval missionaries posted along the Santiago de Compostela trail. Strictly speaking, the "fellows" have no obligation, except to engage in the synergy of "spontaneous conversation" each evening. Drinks are served, then dinner, then another round of drinks. I knew Italian cuisine was delicious but, until now, hadn't realized the seeming simplicity of the most delicious dishes. (For the next month, I will have to educate myself about wine-drinking. Frankly, this middle-class kid from Barrio Kapitolyo in Pasig ain't used to this grand lifestyle.)

At the crest of the hill stand the ruins of a fortress where, shielded from the world, I do my tai'chi exercises. As an on-and-off practitioner and perpetual beginner, I find that the exercise is best done in a quiet place (it is so quiet here I can hear myself breathe as I do my forms), with nobody around (Pinoys are allergic to solitude, and think it's bad for you, too), and in bright sunshine and cold weather (now try finding that combination in Manila!). The irony of doing meditative forms inside a fortress is matched only by the paradox of this Oriental reconnecting with himself thousands of miles away in Europe.

The fellows are fortunate to be invited by the foundation, indeed, even more considering that the foundation also invites and pays for the spouse. (Those who are turned down must wait a few more years before they can reapply. Those who actually become fellows must wait another 10 years before returning, a maximum of two "residencies" in each lifetime.) My wife and I are both provided facilities to do our work. We can choose to join the other fellows for lunch, or we can order a picnic basket that we can enjoy either in the study, on a boat on the lake, or in any of the gazebos tucked into the placid corners of the villa.

We took a walk through town yesterday, narrow cobble-stoned pathways lined by fashionable shops and, of course, delightful gelaterias. The weather was a bright, sunny 14 degrees Centigrade at noon, warm enough for jogging in shorts and T-shirt. In contrast to Rome where I saw many Filipinos, I haven't seen a single Filipino face here in Bellagio. Perhaps it is the distance. We had to take two trains (ah, yes, there were two very helpful Filipinas on the Milan-Tirano train) and crossed the lake via a ferryboat to get here.

When I read in the Internet all the toxic news back home in the Philippines, I feel that I am in a "parallel universe," the physicists' version of the "what if's" mere mortals can only conjure. Here my most serious problem is when my gelato starts melting, and I have to strategize how to lick it to keep it from dripping on my shirt.

Of course, my thoughts constantly turn to home. Hello, Garci, are you still alive? What truths do you keep that you must be kept, and kept concealed? What is the fate of the nation to which I will return soon? Can't President Macapagal-Arroyo just keep it simple, and answer us once and for all: Were you the "Ma'am" that Garci was talking to on the tape? Why is it so difficult for her to say either that she was, or she wasn't, the woman speaking on those tapes? Why all the legal subterfuge? And why exalt this mockery as the rule of law?

You know, Garci, wherever you are kept, neither you nor I have really left the Philippines. Computer technology merely makes more graphic, more palpable, what the heart has known all along. T.S. Eliot said: "And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, And know the place for the first time."

Tai'chi aims for stillness in action. Bellagio reminds us that sometimes one can find action in the purest forms of contemplation, and on returning home, seek communion in our most practical and day-to-day strivings.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Japan's kamikaze isolation

COMMENTARY

Christoph Bertram

IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF JAPAN IS BENT ON self-isolation in Asia. After a few months during which Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi ostensibly sought to improve his country's relations with China, his fifth visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine has again raised tempers. China and South Korea both canceled meetings of their foreign ministers with their Japanese counterpart. Once again, Japan has missed a chance to rebuild trust in a part of the world where, in the absence of cooperative international institutions, trust is all there is.

Why does Japan still not understand that the way it treats its history echoes across every part of Asia that Japan's military occupied in the first part of the 20th century? Japanese reactions reveal an extraordinary degree of stubborn self-righteousness.

As Japan's government never ceases to point out, the Yasukuni Shrine, built in 1869, venerates the 2.5 million Japanese who have died for their country, not just the 14 judged as war criminals after World War II. But, while many Japanese feel (with some justification) that South Korea and, in particular, China, exploit the Yasukuni issue to reduce Japan's influence in the region and to pander to their publics' strong nationalism, they are missing the point.

Indeed, domestic politicking seems to be at least as important to Japan's leaders as to South Korea's or China's. Koizumi's visit to the shrine, officially presented as that of a private citizen, was intended to impress the Japanese public, regardless of its effects abroad.

But the country now is isolated, which affects the whole fabric of stability in the region. Japan's diplomatic isolation strengthens those in the Chinese leadership who have long sought to marginalize what is economically and militarily still Asia's most powerful nation, while sucking other states in the region deeper into China's shadow. Japan's isolation also increases its dependency on its only ally, the United States, and undermines the fragile chance of developing a framework in Asia to address future regional crises in a spirit of cooperation rather than confrontation and rivalry.

Because Japan's isolation is a matter not only for the Japanese, it must be a matter for Western policy. The record, however, is not impressive. The US administration, fashionably worried over China's growing regional influence, seems quite happy with a closely-tied Japan that could help balance China. But this is obviously a shortsighted approach, for a Japan that is tied exclusively to America will lose, not gain, against China in the region, thus making the balancing act even harder.

The Europeans have no Japan policy at all, not even a shortsighted one. Fixated on the promise of an ever growing Chinese market, they give little thought to the stability of the region. They seem to think of the powers in the region as unconnected islands, and of their own behavior toward one as devoid of political consequence for the others.

When the European Union last year considered lifting its symbolic arms embargo against China, none of the governments driving the proposal bothered to consider that this, too, would be symbolic, sending a message all over Asia that Europe was putting its political weight behind Chinese regional policies. Japanese demands to reconsider fell on deaf ears, and the initiative was put on ice only when US congressmen threatened economic repercussions and China increased pressure on Taiwan.

Instead of exploiting Japan as a regional aircraft carrier, as the US tries to do, or neglecting her politically, as Europeans do, both need to work out a new, strategic approach—if possible, jointly. The aim must be to prevent a clash of nationalisms and encourage a cooperative framework in which the region's major countries interact and develop respect for each other's interests. Such a framework can emerge in Asia only with Japan's active involvement, not on the basis of her isolation.

Of course, Japan must lead the way. Japan's leaders must recognize that the mindlessness with which they still treat the sensitivities of societies that suffered from Japanese imperialism in the 20th century is as morally deaf as it is strategically damaging. But this process of realization is more likely to succeed if Japan does not feel it stands with its back against the wall.

Friends from abroad can assist this process by ensuring that Japan does not to feel alone. Far from endorsing Japanese lack of sensitivity, active Western political engagement—for its own credibility in Asia—must convey that Japan's future depends on gaining the trust of the region.

That is not too much to ask. After all, Japan was a political ally throughout the half-century of the Cold War. In a part of the world where democracy is gradually advancing, Japan can point to firm democratic traditions and institutions. Its economic clout remains formidable, and its commercial and cultural ties to the West are broad and varied. Japan may have shied away for decades from sharing the task of maintaining international order, but a new awareness of international responsibility is steadily emerging.

For those who want a stable Asia, the interest in establishing close links with Japan should be obvious. This should not come at the expense of similar links with others, such as China and India, but these ties must not be acquired at the price of isolating Japan. *Project Syndicate*

Christoph Bertram, formerly director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin, currently holds the Steven Muller Chair for German Studies at the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center.

Stories and values

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FEW YEARS AGO, BROADCASTER SUSAN ENriquez was visited by her manicurist, and the woman had quite a compelling story to tell.

The manicurist had four children and between her earnings from home services for her "regulars" and her husband's wages as a security guard, they were still hard put supporting their family. Then her husband lost his job, and shortly after, she found out she was pregnant. When time came for her to deliver, she was brought to Fabella, a government birthing facility, but was turned away because, she was told, there was no longer any room for her, even as she insisted that a bed in the corridor would do. Her husband rushed her to a small private hospital where she gave birth by Caesarean section. When she woke up, she nearly fainted at the sight of the hospital bill: P35,000.

Still weak from the procedure, the manicurist, on the pretext of using the bathroom, left the hospital to raise money for her and the baby's bills. One of those she called on was Enriquez.

"She was pale and trembling," Enriquez recalls, "and when I asked who was looking after her children, she replied that she had parceled them out to relatives."

Enriquez lent her some money, but the woman's plight bothered the TV reporter no end, especially since a few days later, Enriquez got a call from the manicurist's eldest child who wanted to know where his mother was. "The last time we heard from her, she said she was going to visit you to borrow some money," the child said.

Enriquez hasn't seen the woman since. "I don't know what happened to her," she confesses. But the woman's plight has served as a goad to Enriquez to keep covering reproductive health issues, even if, in the news hierarchy of the media industry, politics and crime (and maybe show biz) trump social issues anytime.

* * *

A FEW things need clearing up about Enriquez's statements which I reported and commented on in my previous column.

First, the statements were made as part of an informal "sharing" with Davao media taking part in an orientation workshop on family planning issues, and was not part of her prepared talk.

Second, Susan was commenting on the "news values" of the media industry as a whole, and not specifically of the managers and editors of GMA-7's News and Public Affairs Department. This was the way I understood it, and this was what I tried to convey in my column. So I apologize if GMA-7's news honchos feel they were singled out for criticism.

As Jessica Soho told me in a phone conversation: "*Ako pa!* You know *naman* how concerned I am about this issue, and how we at GMA-7 have tried to advocate for this in our different shows." And to her and GMA-7's credit, they indeed have done excellent stories and shows not just on family planning and reproductive health, but on gender and women's issues in general.

The trouble is, of course, that there are only so many stories one can air in a given news broadcast, or in an issue of a newspaper. In a season of political upheavals and almost daily rallies and dispersals, the news landscape would almost certainly be dominated by such stories. Stories on social issues, which almost always don't have a time element, are at particular risk of being bumped off for "hotter" breaking stories. Even if, in the larger scheme of things, issues like education, behavior and health, including reproductive health and family planning, are more important, with more lasting impact on our lives.

* * *

FROM DAVAO, I flew to Cebu for another media orientation workshop, part of a series of orientations sponsored by The Social Acceptance Project on Family Planning, funded by USAID and managed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

The focus of the Cebu orientation was on "men's participation," including testimonials of "vasectomy champions," that is, men who have undergone non-scalpel vasectomies, as well as their wives. Unfortunately, there isn't enough room right now to share their stories, so I'll reserve these for the next column.

While I was in Cebu, I met with another group in Mandaue City, composed of representatives of NGOs belonging to the Mandaue City Network of NGOs, the Gender Advocates for Good Governance Network (3G's Net), members of Abansel Pinay and of barangay women's groups and the Mandaue City Organization of First Ladies (Mancofil), headed by Linda Ouano, wife of the mayor. Unfortunately, by the time I arrived at the conference hall of the Mandaue City Health Office, she had already left for another appointment. Still, I would like to thank her for her support for the activity, as well as for the women in their city.

* * *

PEPE Gasapo of Learn, a labor education center, was the indefatigable organizer of the forum, which is but another example of the cooperation obtaining between the local government and nongovernment organizations in the city in pursuit of what Pepe called their dream of "building a city that is liveable and humane."

The forum centered on "Gender Issues and Growing Urbanization," a relevant topic indeed in Mandaue, which is already a highly urbanized city that has also reported the highest population growth rate in Central Visayas, as city health officer Rosemarie Tirado noted.

I pointed out in my talk that urbanization is an "inevitable" process that is nearly impossible to turn back or reverse. Already, more than half of the world's population lives in cities.

One participant stressed, however, that urbanization brings with it threats to our very survival, especially since it affects a country's food security and environment. This then is the challenge: to match the inexorable march toward urbanization with measures to mitigate its worst effects.

Using 'aswang' to fight Huks

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS ARE SPROUTING all over our neighborhood, to the delight of my favorite nephew. Times have really changed, because toddlers today do not seem distressed to see plastic ghosts, goblins and witches outside the gates dressed up for "Trick or Treat."

For the second year in a row, Lizzie Zobel has challenged neighbors to produce something more frightening than driveways turned into a spider's lair, with two giant black widows sliding down cobwebs on their carports. One house has white ghosts suspended on trees, another has the front lawn planted with tombstones. My sister once decorated the front of the house with traditional Halloween pumpkins, but they disappeared after the first night. Even in gated communities, there are petty crimes.

The major production is in nearby Dasmariñas Village, with one home having a complete lighted tableau to rival the annual COD Christmas display. This terrifying tableau has no moving parts but has Count Dracula (the classic Bela Lugosi type) helping his bride out of a coffin.

Fortunately, our parish priest Fray Antonio Rosales, OFM, takes all this in stride, unlike some clergymen in Capiz who cast a wet blanket over a rather innovative tourist gimmick that was originally supposed to be the "Capiz Aswang Fesitival."

By tradition, Filipinos have considered Capiz the center of *aswang* stories. Real or imagined, this is part of our folklore. But when the local government wanted to capitalize on it, clergymen raised hell as the INQUIRER reported some days ago. One would think that there are better things to get excited about, like poverty, corruption, social injustice and the social structures that promote these. One would think there are more relevant topics to cover in a Sunday homily like the readings that are often inadequately and clumsily explained, yet all that energy was wasted denouncing the *aswang* festival.

I'm only going by the sensational newspaper report, though I have asked for a copy of the pastoral letter on the *aswang* festival read from the pulpits. If there is some moral or doctrinal dimension, maybe we should sit back, listen and reflect. But before all this, we should pinch ourselves to be reminded that we are in the 21st century not the Middle or so-called "Dark Ages."

The controversy over the Capiz Aswang Festival reminded me of the use of the *aswang* in the counter-insurgency efforts of the Magsaysay administration in the 1950s. US Maj. Gen. Edward Geary Landsdale in his book, "In the Midst of Wars: An American's Mission to Southeast Asia" (1972), provides us with this year's Halloween reading:

"When I introduced the practical joke aspect of psywar to the Philippine Army, it stimulated some imaginative operations that were remarkably effective.

"To the superstitious, the Huk battleground was a haunted place filled with ghosts and eerie creatures. Some of its aura of mystery was imparted to me on my own visits there. Goosebumps rose on my arms on moonless nights in Huk territory as I listened to the haunting minor notes of trumpets playing Pampangueña dirges in the barrios or to the mournful singing of men and women known as *nangangaluluwa* as they walked from house to house on All Saints' night telling of lost and hungry souls.

"Even Magsaysay believed in the apparition called a *kapre*, a huge black man said to walk through tall grass at dusk to make it stir or sit in a tree or astride a roof, smoking a large cigar.

"One psywar operation played upon the popular dread of an *aswang* or vampire, to solve a difficult problem. Local politicians opposed Magsaysay's plan of moving more troops out of defensive garrisons to form further mobile and aggressive BCTs [Battalion Combat Teams], and in one town the local bigwigs pointed out that a Huk squadron was based on a hill near town. If the troops left, they were sure the Huks would swoop down on the town and the bigwigs would be their victims. Only if the Huk squadron left the vicinity would they agree to the removal of the guarding troops. The problem, therefore, was to get the Huks to move. The local troops had not been able to do this.

"A combat psywar squad was brought in. It planted stories among town residents of an *aswang* living on the hill where the Huks were based. Two nights later, after giving the stories time to circulate among Huk sympathizers in the town and make their way up the hill camp, the psywar squad set up an ambush along a trail used by the Huks. When a Huk patrol came along the trail, the ambushers silently snatched the last man of the patrol, their move unseen in the dark night. They punctured his neck with two holes, vampire fashion, held the body up by the heels, drained it of blood, and put the corpse back on the trail.

"When the Huks returned to look for the missing man and found their bloodless comrade, every member of the patrol believed that the aswang had got him and that one of them would be next if they remained on that hill. When daylight came, the whole Huk squadron moved out of the vicinity. Another day passed before the local people were convinced that they were really gone. Then Magsaysay moved the troops who were guarding the town into a BCT."

One wonders, what other uses we can have for *aswang* in the 21st century aside from tourist festivals and counterinsurgency?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Goodbye, Kalantiaw

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"THEY SHALL BE SLAVES FOR A GIVEN TIME, WHO SING in their night errands, kill manaul birds, tear documents belonging to the headmen; who are evil-minded liars; who play with the dead."

Some of you may have recognized that passage from the Code of Kalantiaw, which for years was taught in our schools as proof that we had a prehispanic civilization. Last Wednesday, my column referred to the work of the historian William Henry Scott, who in 1968 exposed the Code and quite a few other fabrications about our prehispanic "civilization."

I know some readers were probably agitated by the column, thinking it un-nationalistic, but really now, can we be proud of such a ludicrous Code, where necrophilia, singing while doing night errands and being "evil-minded liars" (perennial lapses of judgment?) are considered the same kind of crimes?

I mentioned in my last column that we may be suffering from the Kalantiaw complex, feeling inferior to our neighbors because we don't have monumental palaces and temples to compete with them. So when a charlatan came up with the Code of Kalantiaw and a number of other documents suggesting a precolonial civilization, our historians and, eventually, the public lapped it all up.

Rich past

Scott summarized the situation succinctly when he observed: "So Filipino children learn about prehispanic phantoms that never existed in the flesh but not the hard facts of the exquisite jadework done by their ancestors, and they must resort to a foreign encyclopedia to see pictures of Inca gold inlays produced in Peru by the same sort of dentistry as was practiced by ancient Batangueños."

Scott was writing in 1968, when there were already archaeological findings that we could be proud of. Since then, there have been even more discoveries that should make it easier for us to say goodbye to Kalantiaw.

In particular, I'm thinking of a copper plate, measuring 20 by 30 cm, unearthed from Laguna and dating back to the 10th century AD, testifying that the bearer, someone named Namwaran, had paid off his debts and was once again a free person, together with his wife and succeeding generations. If we want proof that we had some kind of legal system going in the precolonial period, here it is.

The inscription mentions that the document was being issued with several witnesses from places believed to be present-day Pulilan and Tondo, suggesting a fairly extensive network of political ties around the area.

The copper plate itself tells us there was a knowledge of metallurgy, and a way to write on it using a syllable-based script (what we generically call *baybayin* or *alibata* today), similar to ones used in India. The date cited on the plate also suggests Indian influences.

Now with all that information coming from a copper plate, who needs a Code of Kalantiaw, which suggests a despotic and sadistic tribal chief?

Proud Panay

Again, I know the sensitivities involved here, with people in Aklan probably bristling at the idea that Kalantiaw never existed. But Aklanons, as well as the people of Panay, have so much to be proud of in terms of a precolonial and colonial heritage.

Because of a conference, I had to travel around Iloilo last week. Dr. Henny Espanola drove me to Miag-ao and although I had taken a 5:15 a.m. flight, I remained wide awake, thoroughly intoxicated by the sea and the mountains, and the ambience of the towns we drove through, all rich in history.

We passed through Oton, and I mentioned to Henny this was where gold death masks were found, again dating to the precolonial period. Henny had seen these masks in a museum in Iloilo city but hadn't realized they came from Oton.

Imagine how the Spaniards must have reacted when they arrived in the Visayas, seeing the "uncivilized" natives running around half-naked and with tattoos, yet adorned with gold earrings, bracelets, belts. In other parts of the islands, as Scott mentions, people had gold inlays in their teeth, which demanded a certain level of skills and technology.

Of course, the gold adornments were probably used only by the rich, which tells us too there was stratification in the precolonial period, but not on a scale found in many of our neighboring countries. Next time you feel the Kalantiaw complex when you visit Angkor Wat or Borobodur, remind yourself that these awesome structures were built only because there were powerful feudal monarchies that had absolute control over the lives of their subjects.

Egg white

Let's get back to Iloilo and Panay. The island has so many old Spanish churches. Miag-ao's is one of four in the Philippines which are considered by Unesco as world heritage sites, and it certainly deserves that designation.

There's much to admire in these churches about its architecture and artwork, but every time I look at them, I think of all the egg white and limestone that went into building these churches. And I smile, too, knowing that the egg yolk did not go to waste—in many places, the *manangs* (middle-aged women, often spinsters) saved the yolk and turned them into biscuits.

Beyond an aesthetic appreciation of the past, we need to think of history as everyday lives, everyday people. These churches often took decades to build, and involved hard conscripted labor. We did not have feudal lords as powerful as those of our neighboring countries, but the Spanish friars certainly had enough power to extract labor from the indios.

When handling the archaeology part of my anthropology courses, I try to get students to move away from the edifice complex and to appreciate "common" items from everyday life such as pottery and baskets. I particularly love the earthenware from Maitum in Cotabato with the lids sculpted almost playfully with a human face, eyes, mouths, even pierced ears.

Recent past

I could go on and on, but I suggest you visit our National Museum to reconstruct our very rich past.

And I'd say, too, a way to say goodbye to Kalantiaw and the Kalantiaw complex is to be more aware as well of our recent past. Filipinos admire Singapore for its modernity, but many are unaware that this very young country takes great efforts to preserve what's "old" in their setting, which mean 20th century buildings. Shophouses—Chinese buildings where shops were on the first floor and residences were on the second and third floors—have been converted into upmarket condominiums. We have that same potential in many of our cities, with much older and grander buildings, not just in Manila but in many small towns all over the country, especially in places like Panay.

We don't need to fabricate the past. It's there, waiting to be discovered and appreciated, in our grandparents' *aparadors* and in the old buildings of our hometowns.

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Court-martial: a way to treat our heroes

WHO AMONG THESE THREE IS THE real hero? Manny Pacquiao, who recently won a WBC international superfeatherweight crown (which is really worthless in the arena of boxing, according to people knowledgeable about the sport)? Precious Lara Quigaman, who bested 51 other beauties for the Miss International title? Or Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who testified to what he knew of the truth regarding the Hello Garci tapes before a Senate hearing?

Each one to his/her hero, but my choice is Gudani. His courageous act, done at great personal risk to his life and incalculable cost to his career as a military officer, is most admirable. With his revelations at the Senate, including the ones he did in a closed-door session, we are closer to the truth that indeed the "President" who now sits in power is not the one the Filipino people elected.

She may just as well resign so as not to prolong our agony as a nation. No amount of political cosmetics or legal and technical gimmickry can save an administration that cannot stand on moral ground. A corrupt government and a spurious leadership only cause our country endless international embarrassment and draw God's judgment on our people.

But what do we do with our real heroes like Gudani? We court-martial them!

—DAVID V. FELICIANO,
Adlas, Silang, Cavite

Plants and animals and scientific names

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE INQUIRER for providing the reading public with information about our wildlife and natural environment, as well as with updates on our endangered and endemic fauna, such as the tamaraw. I would just like to call attention to a rather small, but very significant error in the article "Endangered tamaraws breed in the wilds again." (PDI, 10/23/05)

At school, we always teach our students to write scientific names properly, since such names are very important in that they remain constant throughout the world—as common or local names differ from area to area. For instance, the scientific name of the tamaraw or the Mindoro Dwarf Buffalo is *Bubalus mindorensis*. The scientific name is a compound name consisting of the genus name (e.g., Bubalus) and the specific epithet (e.g., mindorensis). The first letter of the genus name is always capitalized while all the letters in the specific epithet should be in lower case. And the whole scientific name must be italicized.

I have consistently noted errors in newspaper articles pertaining to scientific names of animals or plants and I believe that it will benefit both the INQUIRER and its readers (especially the young ones) to write scientific names properly. Furthermore, the choice of the word "descendant" to describe the affinity of the tamaraw to "cows, deer and carabaos" is wrong since this implies that the tamaraw was derived from these animals when in fact they are actually relatives belonging to the same taxonomic order (Artiodactyla), with their own evolutionary histories. It's like saying Man is descended from the chimpanzee, which is, of course, wrong, even in scientific discourse.

I hope that the writers of the INQUIRER will take the time to ensure that the facts they write about are accurate and correct, in spite of the horrendous deadlines they have to face.

—JOSE CHRISTOPHER E. MENDOZA,
instructor,
Institute of Biology,
College of Science,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman Quezon City

No Tricks, All Treats

A FANTASY HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION AT ROBINSONS MALLS

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Snap election

GMA'S LEADERSHIP IS ALREADY SO SERIOUSLY DISCREDITED that the only practical thing left for her to do—to save face—is to quit the presidency. She should take the only honorable way out available to her and resign now. This goes for Vice President Noli de Castro as well. Then the country can conduct an honest-to-goodness election to select new leaders. Since the majority of Filipinos say the last election was stolen by GMA, having a snap election now is the only right thing to do.—**Roj Clemente, M8Consult@aol.com**

* * *

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Everything in this crisis is personal. The opposition against Gloria, party against party, senator against senator and so on. They don't even consider that our government is getting weaker. Our elected officials are destroying our government and economy. They are ignoring the fact that the people who elected them are suffering because of their actions. They continue to use the masses to fulfill their personal goal.

A snap election is the very best thing to do. Expensive, yes, but the situation will change, *kaysa naman ganito lagi hanggang 2010.* No one in the present administration should be allowed to take part in a snap election. *Kalimutan na ang kasuhan, wala din naman kahihinatnan. Mas maganda nga kung mag-*show-down *sina Erap, FVR, Cory at GMA—at aalis ng Pilipinas ang matatalo pati mga kaalyado. Walang kampanyahan para walang utang na loob sa mga tumulong. Isang araw lang ang balitaktakan sa telebisyon at radyo. Walang poster o anumang paraphernalia. Kapag may lumabas na kahit ano,* disqualified and immediately *palalabasin ng bansa,* freeze *lahat ng* bank account. *Naka-base ang apat sa isang lugar lang. Ang matalo ibibigay ang 70 percent ng kanilang* asset *nung panahon na nasa kapangyarihan sila (pambayad sa utang) at wala na silang karapatang makialam sa patakbo ng bagong gobyerno,* unless *hinihingi ng sambayang Pilipino ang kanilang tulong (sambayanan, di lang mga taga-Maynila). Ang hindi makatanggap ng pagkatalo, pugutan ng ulo. Masyadong maraming magaling at matalino sa Pilipinas kaya hindi umusad ang pag-asenso.—**Eli Simbol - PrexNilda@aol.com***

* * *

Why not proceed to reforming the Commission on Elections first and then call for a referendum in which people can decide whether they want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to stay, whether they want Noli de Castro to stay, and whether they wish to change the form of government?

Yes, we should include the last question instead of wasting such a big amount of money on a consultative commission, the members of which were appointed by Ms Arroyo, whom we do not trust.

We did not complain before, because we thought that there were enough complaints for Ms Arroyo to address. Given her previous unwise decisions in making appointments, we should have known better.

We hope that the suggestions above would help break the political impasse peacefully. And we need a clean Comelec to do this, people in it whom we can trust, not those members appointed by Ms Arroyo.—**TERESITA UY, Auckland, New Zealand**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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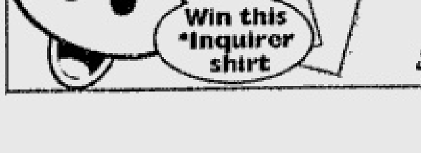

Question of the Week

Do you agree with the dispersal and use of water cannons against a procession by the clergy and citizens in Mendiola last week?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!*

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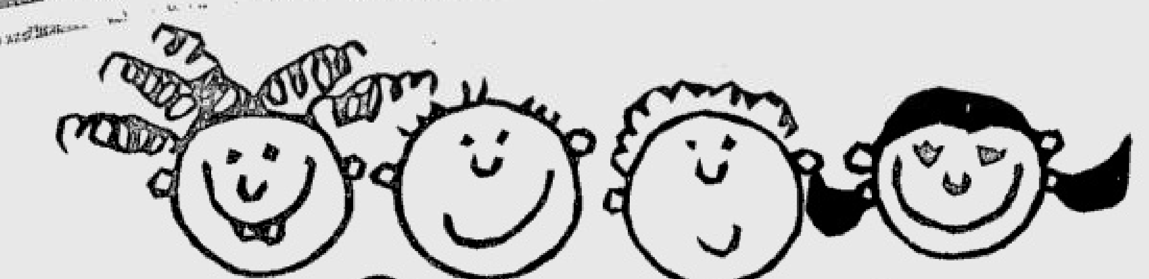
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808 local 335. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Inquirer
menu

Pangako para sa Pangarap



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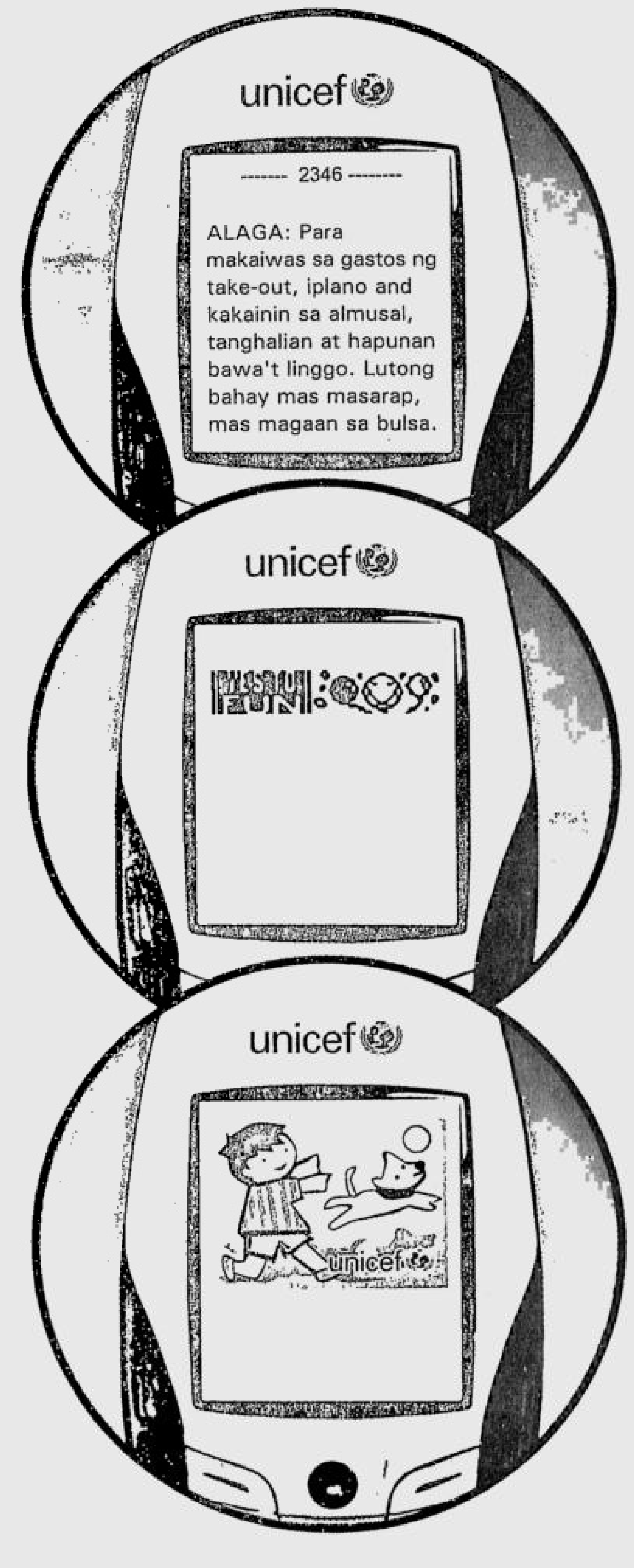

------- 2346 --------

ALAGA: Para makaiwas sa gastos ng take-out, iplano and kakainin sa almusal, tanghalian at hapunan bawa't linggo. Lutong bahay mas masarap, mas magaan sa bulsa.

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US power firm loses ₱250-M tax case

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE PROVINCIAL government has junked the protest filed by an American firm over its payment of P250.7 million in real property taxes on its hydroelectric plant in Alfonso Castañeda town.

Perfecto Martinez Jr., provincial treasurer, dismissed the protest filed by California Energy-Casecnan Water and Energy Co. (CE Casecnan) as it was filed beyond the 60-day period allowed by law within which the company could have opposed the tax assessment.

"A protest filed on Aug. 23, 2005 or 542 days from Feb. 27, 2004 (the date of the notice of assessment to the company) certainly can no longer be entertained for [having been] filed way out of time," said Martinez in his letter to Joseph Sullivan, CE Casecnan president.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach lawyer Linda Castillo, CE Casecnan vice president and general counsel, for comment on Wednesday. Calls made on her mobile phone were answered with a recorded message.

The protest was filed in August by the firm's lawyers to question the local taxes imposed by the governments of Nueva Vizcaya and Alfonso Castañeda on the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP).

This was after CE Casecnan on July 24 paid P250.7 million in accumulated taxes since the CMIPP started operations in December 2001. The payment averted the scheduled auction sale of the project supposedly on the next day.

The amount covered P186.2 million in unpaid real property taxes, P59.6 million in penalties and P4.9 million in "administrative cost" for 14 pieces of CMIPP property worth at least P3.1 billion.

The provincial treasurer's office was set to auction off the CMIPP's two diversion weirs, a pair of 26-km tunnels, and several buildings and machines, all located in Barangays Pelaway and Abuyo in Alfonso Castañeda, 150 km from here.

But Martinez, citing the Local Government Code, said protests on tax assessments by the local treasury offices could be filed within 60 days after the taxpayer received the notice. Otherwise, such tax charges shall become "final and executory."

In its protest, the company said the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), not CE Casecnan, was liable to pay real property taxes, being the project's "beneficial owner."

CE Casecnan also invoked the provisions of its supplemental agreement with NIA in 2004, which barred the company from paying taxes without permission from NIA and the Department of Finance. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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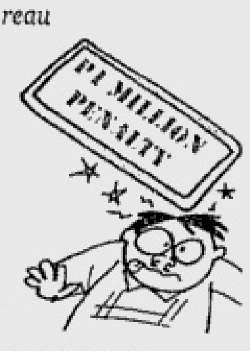
Fake lawyer faces ₱1M in damages

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



LAOAG CITY—A court here has imposed a penalty on a former associate dean of a law school worth more than P1 million in damages after the official was found to have posed as a lawyer for more than 10 years.

Rogelio Bacolor Sr. was a known luminary in local legal circles and had served at one point as associate dean of the Northwestern University until he was discovered to be a non-member of the Bar in 2003.

Bacolor, who also served as president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Ilocos Norte in 2001, was known to have defended and won celebrated cases in court, including a labor case filed by a group of employees against a now defunct transportation company in the province.

He was discovered to be a non-lawyer when he went to the national office of the IBP on one occasion and his name did not appear in the roll of attorneys of the Supreme Court when IBP officials had to check his roll number.

The IBP local chapter then sought a certification from the SC's office of the bar confidant confirming that Bacolor's name was not included in the lawyers' roll.

The IBP local chapter filed the civil case in 2003 against Bacolor for usurpation of functions.

Judge Philip Salvador cited a law provision that only people duly admitted as members of the Bar and who are in good and regular standing are entitled to practice law.

"The court is not aware how he remained undetected or if anybody knew about it although it seems improbable that no lawyer knew that the defendant lacked the qualification," Salvador said in his Sept. 30 decision that was released only on Oct. 18.

"From the time that he started to practice law to the time that his cover was blown away, he had every opportunity to quit but perhaps because of the lucrative nature of the profession and with uncaring members who did not bother to check on his credentials, he seemed to have been encouraged all the more to engage [in the law profession]," the judge said.

Salvador said Bacolor's act was "fraudulent and highly contrary to morals."

Bacolor, who reportedly left for Bacolod City when the controversy began, never appeared during the case's proceedings or filed his response in court.

This prompted the court to declare him in default and decided the case based on testimonial evidence.

Itogon seeks share of taxes from mining

ITOGON, BENGUET—THIS TOWN IS ONE OF the province's only two Class A municipalities but officials are griping that the stature is simply on paper due to the slow processing of their share of national wealth taxes.

The town hosts the Binga hydroelectric power plant and portions of Philex Mines and San Roque multipurpose dam.

But officials said until now, their cash register just could not sustain an annual budget of P66 million to P75 million.

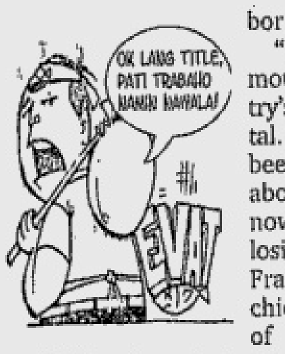
Recently, they asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct the Department of Budget and Management to order the immediate release of P34 million representing the town's share from the P85.78 million in taxes paid by Philex in 2003 and 2004.

The local council passed two resolutions asking the National Power Corp. and the Department of Energy to provide the town the information needed to compute the town's share from San Roque's operation.

In another move, Mayor Mario Godio wrote Ms Arroyo to allow the town to take over the management and operation of the Binga plant.

Only Napocor has so far replied to the officials' clamor for tax entitlement. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Sardines capital' title fast slipping past Zambo


OK LANG TITLE, PATI TRABAHO NAMIN NAWALA!
EVAT

ZAMBOANGA CITY—This city is bound to lose its reputation soon as the country's sardines capital should more and more fishing companies shut operations as a result of rising fuel prices and the effects of the expanded value added tax, officials said.

William Tiu Lim, president and chief executive officer of Mega Fishing Corp., said those two factors were the reasons his firm plans to shut operations down for four months from this coming Nov. 1 to Feb. 28 next year.

The canning firms are also suffering from high tin and labor costs, he said.

"We've been famous as the country's sardines capital. Last year we've been bragging about this title, and now we might be losing this," said Francisco Cadiz, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for Western Mindanao.

Chita Cilindro, labor chief for Western Mindanao, said at least 6,000 workers are to lose their jobs because of the canning firms' closure.

The DOLE, she said, is looking for other jobs for these workers. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Profiling of foreigners seen way to stop sex abuse in town

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE MAYOR OF THE resort town of Dauin in Oriental Negros wants all foreigners staying in the town to be listed and their credentials as persons of good moral character fully established in the wake of incidents of sexual abuse perpetrated against young town women by foreign residents.

Mayor Rodrigo Alanano yesterday said he asked the municipal council to study the possible passage of an ordinance that would authorize the municipal government to profile all foreigners staying in the town.

The profiling, the mayor said, would allow officials to determine if a foreigner-resident has a criminal record in his country of origin as the town would not want to host undesirable aliens and sexual molesters.

Dauin, 14 km south of Dumaguete City, has been home to numerous foreign residents lured by its pristine beaches and simple lifestyle.

Since late last year, however, the peace and serenity of the town has been disturbed after several young girls reported being sexually abused by foreigners.

PO2 Susima Castillo, of the Women and Children Protection Desk of the Dauin police, said three foreigners of different nationalities and a Filipina have recently been separately charged with rape.

Castillo said Reinherd Schultz, 66, a German who used to reside in Barangay Masaplod Sur, is now detained for allegedly raping last April two orphan sisters aged 14 and 16.

Gloria Valiente, the girls' aunt who had custody over the sisters, was also charged for allegedly selling her nieces to Schultz.

The girls are now under the care of the Social Welfare and Development office in Dumaguete.

Castillo also revealed that a Thomas Mc Farlane, 60, an American national and common-law husband of Valiente, is now wanted for the rape of two sisters, aged 17 and 19, in Poblacion Dauin. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Typhoid kills 2, downs 200

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—TWO persons have died while almost 200 people were hospitalized because of what town officials believed was an outbreak of typhoid in Borbon, around 82 km north of here, over the last two weeks.

Another 51 persons were downed by diarrhea since last week in Sibonga, around 50 km south of Cebu City.

Borbon Mayor Neil Vergara asked the municipal council to hold a special session to declare at least six barangays of the town in a state of calamity because of the typhoid outbreak.

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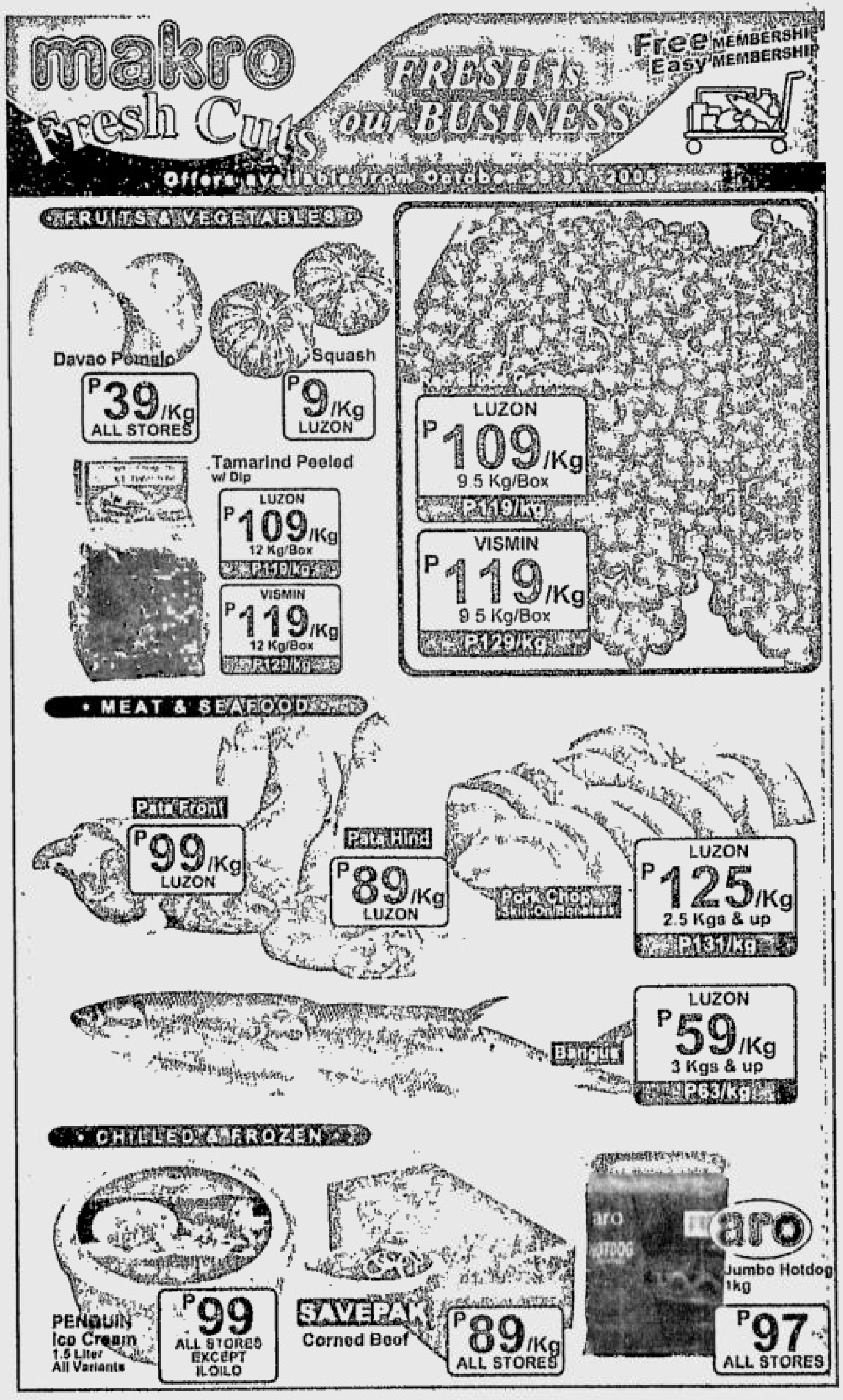

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Toll exemption seen way to keep food costs down

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT is starting negotiations to exempt vegetable trucks from paying toll at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) as a way to soften the impact of the new VAT law on prices of food.

Gerry Balliang, agriculture assistant director in the Cordillera, said the Department of Agriculture would try to enforce a provision in the reformed VAT law exempting agricultural products in seeking toll exemptions for more than 70 dealers.

These dealers deliver 40 tons of vegetables to Metro Manila daily, Balliang said.

"These exemptions should mean down the line, including toll...," he said.

Demand for salad vegetables increases by December, and the government is worried about the impact of VAT on oil, power and toll on food shipped from the Cordillera, said Patricio Ananayo, chief of the DA marketing services here.

Ananayo said Cordillera vegetable traders initially asked for toll discounts when the government offered to speed up food shipments early this year. But NLEx officials refused.

"It hasn't been discussed openly, but the government was only able to negotiate toll discounts for truckers shipping sand and gravel from Pampanga," he said.

Instead, NLEx and Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, opened up food lanes to reduce the traders' shipping expenses.

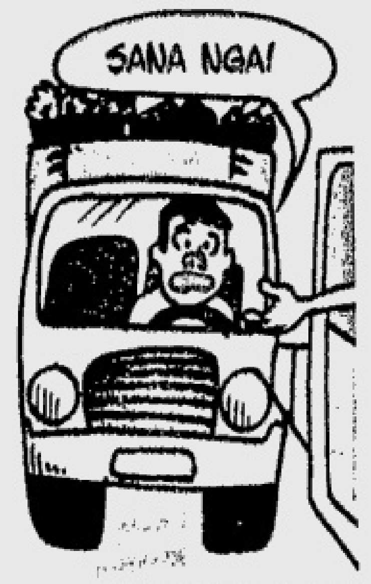
But the VAT on toll changes the scenario, Ananayo said. Without the increase, a kilogram of vegetables that crosses NLEx costs traders P2.50 when these products are dropped off at Alabang, Muntinlupa, or P3 when the trucks reach Cavite.

"We don't know how much interest will have to be introduced to delivery costs of vegetables. Traders will need to compute [the factor of a toll hike by as much as P46]," he said.

"We always need to compensate because of the inequitable distribution of vegetables to Metro Manila. The bulk is delivered to Divisoria because traffic congestion and the different color-coding schemes [of each Metro Manila town or city] restrict truckers from delivering vegetables to various markets," Ananayo said.

He said traders' groups in Benguet have managed to keep down shipping costs to under P2,000 for a trip to Metro Manila and back.

Vegetable supply for November remains stable but demand is slow, Ananayo said. But he said most farmers are preparing for increased demand in the holidays.



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Sorsogon execs seek help after cyanide leak from mining site

SORSOGON CITY—THE PROVINCIAL Agriculture Office here has sought the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in investigating the reported leakage of cyanide from the mining site of Lafayette Mining Corp. in Barangay Pagcolbon in the island town of Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Serafin Lacdang, head of the Provincial Fishery Division, said he was informed by residents through text messages quoting the mining company as saying they were told not to use water in the area for fear of contamination.

The leakage occurred on Oct. 11 and it was apparently kept under wraps until Oct. 24, he added.

Officials expressed fears cyanide would contaminate bodies of water around the mining area and would reach the Pacific Ocean, which narrowly separates Rapu-Rapu island from this city.

Lacdang said they sought the help of the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR that sent an investigating team to the area earlier.

The provincial government is awaiting word from DENR and BFAR on the result of the investigation, Lacdang added.

Rey Juan, Mines and Geosciences Bureau Bicol regional technical director, said in a report faxed to the INQUIRER that there was indeed a tailings spill on Oct. 11 after the tailings pump of the Rapu-Rapu mining project malfunctioned.

Mine tailings containing cyanide overflowed from the emergency pond of the mill.

Juan said the spill was reported to his office and he sent men to check on it. He said his office suspended the operations of a machinery in the mill until the tailings pump was repaired.

He said the spill was confined in the mining site and tests of samples, taken from the mouth of the mill's drainage, were conducted Oct. 22. Test results showed the cyanide level was within tolerable limits, said Juan.

Juan said his office continues to monitor repairs being done on the tailings pump and the mill's drainage system. *Bobby Q. Labalan and Joanna Los Baños, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

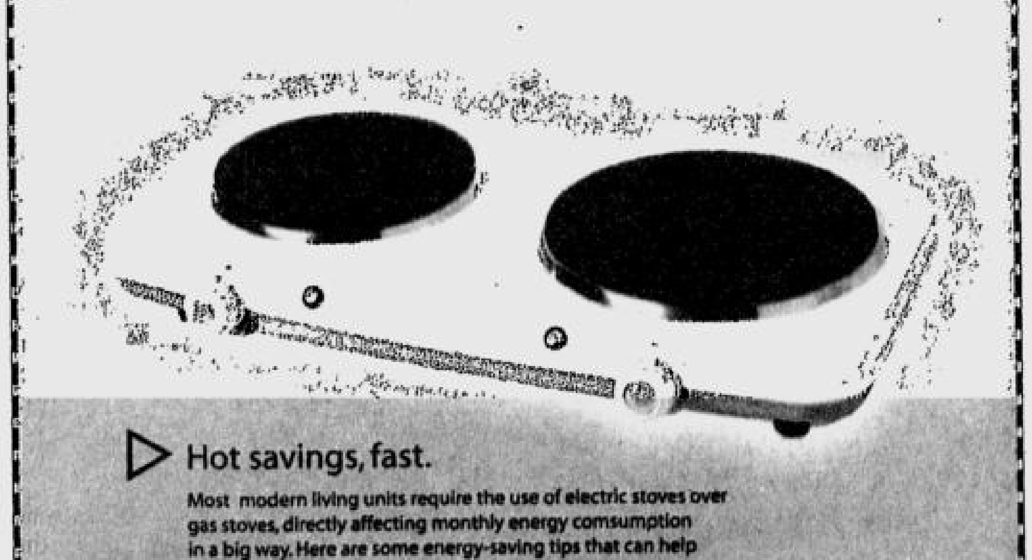
Study says townsfolk face cholera, diarrhea threats

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Residents of Buguias, one of the vegetable producing towns in the province, are facing serious threats from cholera and diarrhea due to poor waste disposal there, an official of the Benguet State University here said.

Quoting a recent study, Dr. Carlito Laurean, BSU research director, said 19 of the 20 water sources of Barangay Loo in Buguias were found positive for coliform, a bacteria found in animal wastes that cause diarrhea and typhoid fever.

"What is alarming is that two of the 19 contaminated water sources had traces of E. coli, or a bacteria that comes from human waste," he said.

Loo is one of six Buguias villages that had been identified in a study by BSU and Saint Loui University in Baguio City. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Ramos, De Venecia, Velarde still GMA allies, says Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THEY MIGHT HAVE URGED HER to cut her term short, but President Macapagal-Arroyo still considers them her staunch allies.

At a briefing yesterday in Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that as far as Ms Arroyo was concerned, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia and El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde were only "expressing their opinions" and had "no plans of imposing [these opinions] on the people."

"My golly, President Ramos is chair emeritus of the [ruling] Lakas party and De Venecia is cochair. I don't see why we can't see them as allies of the President," Ermita said.

"[Ramos, De Venecia and Velarde's] statement on cutting short her term is premised on the Constitution being amended and revised," he said.

The proposal of the three men for Ms Arroyo to reduce her term in office is just short of the call for her immediate resignation made by former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon. But Malacañang's relations with Aquino and Drilon, both formerly avid supporters of Ms Arroyo, have since been icy.

On Ramos' recent speech before members of the business community, which was deemed critical of the President, Ermita said the remarks of his ex-colleague in the military had been taken out of context.

"He is not urging the President to resign because from the beginning, or July 8, he had proposed that the people hold a plebiscite on Charter reforms by April 2006, which would include the transitory provision on the terms of the President and Vice President," Ermita said, adding:

"It's nothing more than a personal opinion from President Ramos."

The ex-President has been seen as a "savior" of Ms Arroyo, especially when he went to Malacañang on July 8 to declare support for the beleaguered President.

"There is no indication that he will cut his ties. It is premature to create a controversy over an issue not yet touched upon by Congress," Ermita said.

US Embassy report links FVR to plot

From page A1

It added: "[Forces], which includes many ex-members of Ramos' former Cabinet, including former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat, and... Almonte, is mostly just a springboard for Ramos' conspiratorial hints of a forthcoming coup attempt."

Ramos, who helped install Ms Arroyo as president in January 2001 and "saved" her from ouster in July 2005, is currently on an official trip to Guangdong, China. He is expected back on Oct. 29.

The report did not carry the name of the embassy official who prepared the document. A copy of it was provided by the same source of the US files that were the subject of a special report by the INQUIRER last month.

The files are believed to be among those pilfered by Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo from Federal Bureau of Investigation computers and forwarded to opposition personalities and groups here.

'Increased rhetoric'

The February 2005 report mentioned Enriquez as a member of Forces; but only Abat and Almonte were influential generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

One of the original members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, or RAM, Almonte is believed to maintain considerable clout among military officers.

Abat, on the other hand, has been constant in calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"According to the source, Ramos has issued a deadline to Almonte to implement the plan by June 2005," the report said.

But it said Ramos' "increased rhetoric" was not supported by anti-Arroyo sentiments among active members of the AFP.

"Ramos will likely increase the pressure [and the] severity of his allegations in the coming months to compel [the President] to resign," it added.

Crying 'Wolf!' scenario

The report was prepared only a week after the Valentine's Day bombings, but no mention was made of the attacks.

It dwelt mainly on coup reports and how they had become so commonplace as to give rise to the "boy who cried wolf" scenario.

"Anti-Arroyo dissenters within the ranks do exist, but they are a shadow of the politically charged and numerous members of RAM-YOU (Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Young Officers Union) which existed a decade ago," the report said.

It said Abat and former Constabulary chief Ramon Montaño—whom it both linked to Ramos—had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"According to intelligence reports, these same individuals have repeatedly asked the active military to oust Arroyo," the report said, adding:

"The retired officers, endorsed by ... Ramos, claim they are exercising their right as citizens to criticize the President."

Charter change

Ramos has been proposing that Ms Arroyo step down next year preparatory to Charter change and a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

He first aired the proposal on July 8, when 10 key government officials quit their posts and called on Ms Arroyo to do the same, and Senate President Franklin Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino publicly urged Ms Arroyo to resign.

Boy, 12, nabbed ...

From page A1

Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence, said that from around 100 men, the RSM was now down to 21 with Tuesday's arrests.

Group bombed SuperFerry

The military said Santos' group, set up five years ago, carried out the bombing of a SuperFerry ship on Feb. 27, 2004, that left at least 73 people dead. It was described as the worst terrorist attack in the country.

The same group was also blamed for the series of Valentine's Day bombings in Makati, Davao and General Santos cities this year in which six people were killed. The attacks were allegedly carried out with the terrorist groups Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf.

Santos was arrested on a warrant issued by the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 162 for kidnapping and illegal detention. Found in the safe house where Santos was nabbed were 49 ammunition rounds for a 57-mm recoilless rifle and various other ammunition and firearms parts.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said state prosecutors would conduct an immediate inquest and appropriate charges would be filed depending on its outcome.

Santos, 36, was limping when he was brought into the Armed Forces headquarters conference room. He and the four other male suspects had two military escorts each. Their hands were cuffed in front.

Santos' wife, Sakina Yaquim, and the two other women had black veils covering their faces.

While the rest of the men bowed to hide their faces, Santos stoically stood before the cameras.

Severe moral effect

Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, AFP intelligence chief, said Santos was already limping when he was arrested. He said the suspect could have been injured while escaping from military troops in Maguindanao.

"The arrest of Ahmad Santos has a severe morale effect on the organization. There are several members of the movement who look up to Santos for leadership and this arrest is a great blow," said Danga.

The others arrested were identified as Malik Alimuddin, Nurumja Amdal y Ibba, Ibni Yasser Andal, Nursidi Ballao, Buddod Abdulla and Ismael Edris.

Aborted bomb plot

Danga said Santos had also plotted to bomb a nightclub in the Malate entertainment district in Manila, which is popular among foreigners. This was aborted with the capture of 600 kilos of explosive materials in Fairview, Quezon City, in March 2005, he said.

Danga could not say exactly how the JI and the ASG had provided financial, logistical or other support to the RSM.

Quevedo said Santos had "safe haven" in Mindanao with Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani while he was on the run.

Danga said Santos had admitted to being with Indonesian JI member Omar Patek all the time he was in Talayan town in Maguindanao.

"The relationship between RSM and Abu Sayyaf is barely indistinguishable. They are together when they operate," Danga said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Palparan: Leftists making me symbol ...

From page A1

Infantry Division, said in a phone interview from Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, yesterday.

The controversial general spoke to the INQUIRER following a spate of killings that has left four people dead this week in the region. They included Ricardo Ramos, head of the labor union at Hacienda Luisita that belongs to ex-President Corazon Aquino's family; Francisco Rivera, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair in Angeles City, and Federico de Leon, a local official of the drivers' organization Piston.

In an interview with GMA News, Aquino expressed sadness at the killing of the 47-year-old Ramos. She said she sympathized with his family.

"We have to find out who is behind this slaying," she said during a visit yesterday to the tomb of her husband, assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

Yet another slaying of a left-wing militant was reported yesterday by Bayan.

Jesus Lombo Jr., 54, a member of Anakpawis, was killed when gunmen repeatedly shot him while he was lying in a hammock outside his house in Ragay, Camarines Sur, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

His 27-year-old son Exequel was critically wounded, said Bayan coordinator Jariz Vida.

Leftist organizations and party-list groups, Palparan said, have set a pattern whenever one of their leaders or members was killed.

Automatic blaming

"They automatically blame me for the killings. They're creating an image of me as a criminal. They make me a symbol of military abuses. They do all these to remove me from my post," he said.

Palparan, who assumed the 7th ID post on Sept. 1, denied any link to what a Bayan official described as a "festival of killings" in Central Luzon.

"Legally, I have no right to order the killings of civilians. My troops in detachments and stations are after rebels," he said.

"If I had planned these, it would have taken me long to carry these out. *Kailangan nito ang tibay ng dibdib. Hindi madaling utusan ang sundalo na pumatay* (This needs courage. It's not easy to order a soldier to kill)," Palparan said.

Tired of making denials

He said he had grown tired of making denials whenever a member of a left-leaning organization is killed.

"Definitely, I can't mastermind the killings," he said.

Even his anti-insurgency campaign, Palparan said, had "not yet gone full blast."

This was because he had to lie low on the heels of criticisms against him weeks before he was pulled out of his previous assignment in Eastern Visayas, he said.

Palparan said the military should not be blamed because legal and underground leftist organizations had made their own enemies.

"Before I arrived in Central Luzon there had been killings already. These are not new in my term," Palparan said.

The military's "enemies," he said, have "high morale now because everything is being blamed on me and the military. The investigation will tend to center on me now."

AFP enemies

These extrajudicial killings are "helping" the Armed Forces in a way because these are eliminating militants who agitate the people to fight the government and also commit "illegal activities" in support of the New People's Army, Palparan said.

Militants, he said, have "conditioned" the public's mind about the so-called festival of killings.

"They also use the media for their propaganda," he said.

What is clear, he observed, is that the enemies of the Left are "riding on me in this bandwagon" of anti-Palparan, antimilitary campaign.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered a "speedy, impartial and full-blown investigation of these senseless killings," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

He said the Philippine National Police had been ordered "to leave no stone unturned to establish the motive behind the brutal attacks to prevent (a) reign of violence and to make the perpetrators pay for their crimes."

"Meanwhile, we appeal to parties concerned to refrain from speculating and (making) baseless accusations," Bunye said.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front yesterday condemned the rash of killings, blaming Palparan and President Arroyo's administration for the murders.

"Its most notorious butcher, Gen. Jovito Palparan, leaves a path of blood wherever he goes," said Luis Jalandoni, an NDF leader based in the Netherlands.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio Rosal said: "Behind his macho bluster and repeated pompous declarations of wiping out the New People's Army, Gen. Palparan is a mere fascist coward."

Hacienda situation volatile

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita warned that forces seeking to foment unrest were taking advantage of the killings.

"They know there is a volatile situation because Hacienda Luisita is owned by former President Aquino and she is with a movement asking for the President's resignation. This particular situation is being used to create instability in the area," said Ermita.

"Among the groups that continue to destabilize the government are the left and it is to their advantage for the situation to deteriorate to put the blame on the administration for not being able to put things in order," Ermita said.

"Palparan happens to be the favorite of the other side in the Left. Every time an NPA is killed where he operates, they accuse him. He is a good officer. I don't think he should figure in the investigation," he said.

Bayan officials said they had seen a "consistent trend" of a rising number of slayings in areas where Palparan had been assigned.

The military top brass also rallied behind Palparan.

"The military does not sanction any illegal activities, any illegal means of conducting operations," said Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff.

"They are so unfair," said Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. "Suppose I accuse them that they are in fact the ones who had their comrades killed ... How will they take that?"

Cojuangco's hand?

Three groups on Thursday said the management of Hacienda Luisita, which is owned by the Cojuangco family, could have had a role in Ramos' killing because of the labor leader's tough stand in negotiations to settle the labor strike there.

"We are directly accusing the Cojuangco and Aquino families in this brutal crime because they are the direct beneficiaries of Ramos' death," said a joint statement from Rene Tua, Catlu adviser; Rene Galang, president of the United Luisita Workers Union, and Roman Polintan, Bayan Central Luzon chair.

Joey Romasanta, spokesperson for the Cojuangcos and a former manager of their Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), brushed aside insinuations that the family had something to do with Ramos' killing.

Romasanta said the Cojuangcos had nothing to gain from the killing. The family has no history of involvement in assassinations, said Romasanta, also vice president for corporate affairs of Jose Cojuangco & Sons.

Let probers do work

Romasanta said the investigation was ongoing and the police and other investigating agencies "should be allowed to do their work so we would know who did this."

He said the CAT management and union were set to sign a memorandum of agreement that would end the 11-month-old strike at the hacienda when Ramos was killed. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, Jo Martinez-Clemente and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Pazzibugan, Luige A. del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria, Philip C. Tubeza, Christian V. Espiritu and Cynthia Balana in Manila; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Palace now a fortress; eyes no-permit, no-Mass policy

From page A1

one of the Catholic churches within the Malacañang complex.

"They (the opposition) are trying to creep into the security area of Malacañang. We have information that [yesterday and today], there will be a group that will go to the St. Jude Church here in the guise of going to Mass, and then unfurling something. It is uncomfortable that they are spitting distance away from Malacañang," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters at a briefing.

"We are only doing this to prevent chaos and disorder from happening in the seat of government. We all know that there are elements out there who want to drag down [President Macapagal-Arroyo]," he said.

First Family's protection

Ermita tried to explain the tough security measures by saying that the PSG was "not a civil disturbance unit" but was "meant to protect the President and her family."

The stepped-up security was prompted by the sneak protest action by opposition forces at the St. Michael or San Miguel Church on Monday.

The PSG reportedly received a tongue-lashing from Ms Arroyo for allowing her opponents to get near the Palace with antigovernment banners and paraphernalia.

Ermita said that it was obvious the group of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda and movie actor Rez Cortez had no intention of hearing Mass at San Miguel.

"What kind of Mass is it where there is no holy communion and only homilies? They did not carry with them rosaries and prayers but antigovernment materials," he said.

Exchange of letters

Ermita said Malacañang had also received information that former President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Roces were supposed to attend that Mass.

In his letter to Monsignor Cruz, Bangit said: "This command respectfully appeals to the fairness and reverence of your church so that political scenarios hidden under the guise of a religious activity could be avoided in the future and thus prevent pious churchgoers from being misled."

But Cruz said the Oct. 24 event was "a solemn Mass with no banners and placards and streamers."

He replied to Bangit's letter: "I don't see any problem with the Mass last Oct. 24. That group has as much right as any other to use the church to celebrate the Eucharist for as long as proper decorum in church is observed. I believe you will be perfectly within your right to act if the gathering becomes violent and unruly."

St. Michael's 'garrison'

On Bangit's complaint that the homily of Fr. Larry Faraon at that Mass had "political undertones," Cruz said: "It is not uncommon for people who request the Mass to bring their own priest, whose homily I have no control over."

"The way I look at it, this (Bangit's letter) is already foul. They can guard the church [during the] Mass, but they should not stop people from coming here," Cruz said.

As if to stress his point, Cruz allowed another group calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, the Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan, to hold a Mass at San Miguel Church yesterday afternoon.

PSG members with long firearms swarmed the streets around the Palace, while at San Miguel, policemen stood in groups in the courtyard and even inside the church.

Fully armed troops stopped all incoming vehicles, and passengers in jeepneys were ordered to open their bags.

The garrison-like scene turned San Miguel into "the most secured church in the country," according to Bishop Teodoro Bacani, who spoke during the Mass.

"This is a Mass for truth, because in this country, truth is hidden, if not flown to another country," Bacani said.

It appeared to be a reference to persistent allegations of fraud in the 2004 elections, and the disappearance of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"I hope the President would be like a child who tells the truth. Anyway, she looks young, like a child. Let's hope she will be childlike in her ways," Bacani said.

'Don't feel intimidated'

Ermita defended the deployment of an armed PSG man in the Malacañang press room: "The PSG personnel provide security, and they are authorized to carry firearms by superior officers. Don't feel intimidated as if you are being threatened because you are not, especially since you are in Malacañang."

Although he agreed to convey the Malacañang reporters' protest to the PSG head, Ermita reiterated that it was the duty of the PSG to provide security "up to what level and what detail," if necessary.

To bolster the move to declare the Palace complex a no-rally zone, Ermita revealed a Department of Justice memorandum defending the intensified security in the area.

Marcos era dictum

The DOJ cited a Supreme Court decision issued during the Marcos era declaring Malacañang a protected area and reasonable restrictions in the use of thoroughfares near the Palace as valid because these were meant to protect the lives of the President and her family, as well as other government officials, diplomats and foreign guests.

The DOJ also cited a court ruling barring demonstrators from holding pickets or rallies within a radius of 200 meters from the outer boundary of the Supreme Court building.

Ermita said Malacañang would adopt this restriction and impose a no-rally zone within a 200-meter radius from the Palace gates.

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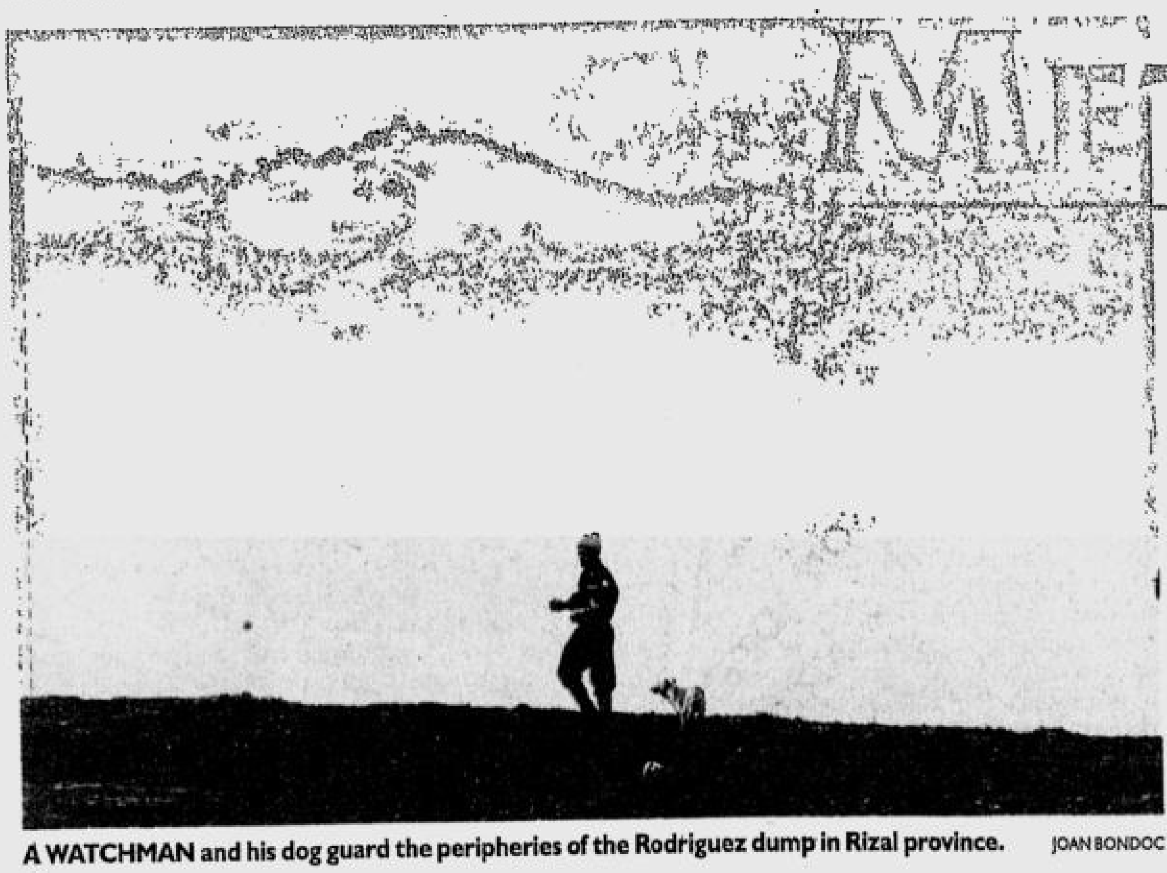
Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**



A WATCHMAN and his dog guard the peripheries of the Rodriguez dump in Rizal province. JOAN BONDOC

MMDA DUMPED

Rodriguez offers garbage facility to Metro mayors

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

UNABLE TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL WITH THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the mayor of Rodriguez, Rizal, now wants to talk directly to Metro Manila mayors.

Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said Metro mayors who want to use the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility could directly enter into an agreement with him for the "co-ownership" of the 14-hectare dump.

He said this would solve the problem brought about by his decision to bar the MMDA from using the facility.

The mayor barred the MMDA from dumping 1,500 tons of garbage daily at the facility after the agency failed to act on Cuerpo's demand for an increase in tipping fee from P600 to P800 per ton of garbage.

The MMDA also still owed the facility P183 million in unpaid dues, he added.

Enough funding

"I am wondering why the MMDA cannot act on our proposal. The agency has enough funds," Cuerpo said in a phone interview.

The facility, which had serviced 10 towns and cities in Metro Manila, still accommodates garbage from some Rizal towns, which had independent contracts with Rodriguez.

Cuerpo said he was preparing a proposal which he would present to Metro mayors who might want to "co-own" the Rodriguez dump.

He first brought up the idea of co-ownership months ago as a way for local governments in Metro Manila to comply with Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

He said being co-owners of the facility would enable Metro cities and towns to meet the requirements of the law, which mandates each local government to have its own landfill by 2006.

Higher tipping fee

But under Cuerpo's proposal, the tipping fee per ton of garbage would be P850.

Apparently unfazed by its exclusion from using the Rodriguez dump, the MMDA has begun to tap other locally run garbage facilities in Metro Manila.

The MMDA has asked local governments to allow the agency to haul garbage to city-controlled dumps and garbage holding areas.

"We [MMDA and mayors] are trying to help one other, and we are maximizing the use of existing dumps," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando met with Metro mayors yesterday to tackle the garbage problem and other concerns.

Among the facilities Fernando said could be used to receive the Metro's trash were dumps in Marikina City, Navotas, Catmon in Malabon City, Payatas in Quezon City, and transfer stations in Las Piñas City and Tondo in Manila.

Navotas injunction

Meanwhile, the town of Navotas and the private operator of the Navotas Controlled Dumpsite Facility won a major victory in court.

Judge Alexander Tamayo of the Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch 15 granted the injunction sought by Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco and the Philippine Ecology Systems Corp. (Phileco) against fishermen blocking the entry of trash barges into the controlled garbage facility.

Tamayo ordered all those opposing the use of the dump to refrain from "blocking the passage of Phileco's barges to and from the Navotas Controlled Disposal Facility." *With Tarra V. Quismundo and Nancy C. Carvajal*

LOTTO RESULTS

SUERTRES 0 3 5
SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
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MTT or TVR, it's just the same, says MMDA

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT'S THE SAME BANANA, BUT WITH a different acronym.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is back to issuing Traffic Violation Receipts (TVR) to errant motorists in response to an order from the Cabinet to stop the implementation of the Metropolitan Traffic Ticketing (MTT) scheme.

In essence though, methods for traffic apprehension would be the same, said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"It's called TVR but that's the same system as the MTT," he said.

While traffic enforcers confiscated licenses and motorists lined up to redeem these later under the old TVR scheme, the MMDA would be implementing the new and improved TVR system with no confiscation of licenses.

Fines would also be paid in any Metrobank branch, just like the MTT scheme.

"With the order for us to go back to the TVR, we would no longer be confiscating licenses. That's a plus, and that's actually the intent of the MTT—convenience for motorists," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

On Saturday, the executive branch ordered the MMDA to revert to the TVRs after transport groups questioned the continued implementation of the MTT scheme.

A Makati court had issued an injunction against the MTT, as it found it "void and without binding and legal effect."

An appeal filed by the agency on the lower court decision is pending in the Court of Appeals.

Popular demand

The traffic chief explained that the agency decided to use TVRs again as they found out that motorists were in favor of the scheme.

The TVR scheme was first used under an MMDA Memorandum Circular.

"Why would we change the scheme when we don't get any complaints about it?," said Vergel de Dios.

In fact, the agency would be using the old MTT tickets turned into TVRs to save on money, he added.

The agency has a stock of some 8,000 booklets of MTTs containing 400,000 tickets, each to be individually stamped "TVR."

METROBRIEFS

'Gunman' in V-bar case seeks dismissal

SAYING he was indicted by mistake, the alleged gunman in the fatal shooting of television director Louis Santiago has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to dismiss the cases against him. Through his lawyer, Oliver Jameiro asked the court on Wednesday to throw out the charges saying that a probe by the National Bureau of Investigation revealed that there was another shooter during the incident. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

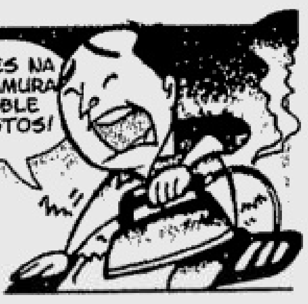

IMBES NA MAKAMURA DOBLE GASTOS!

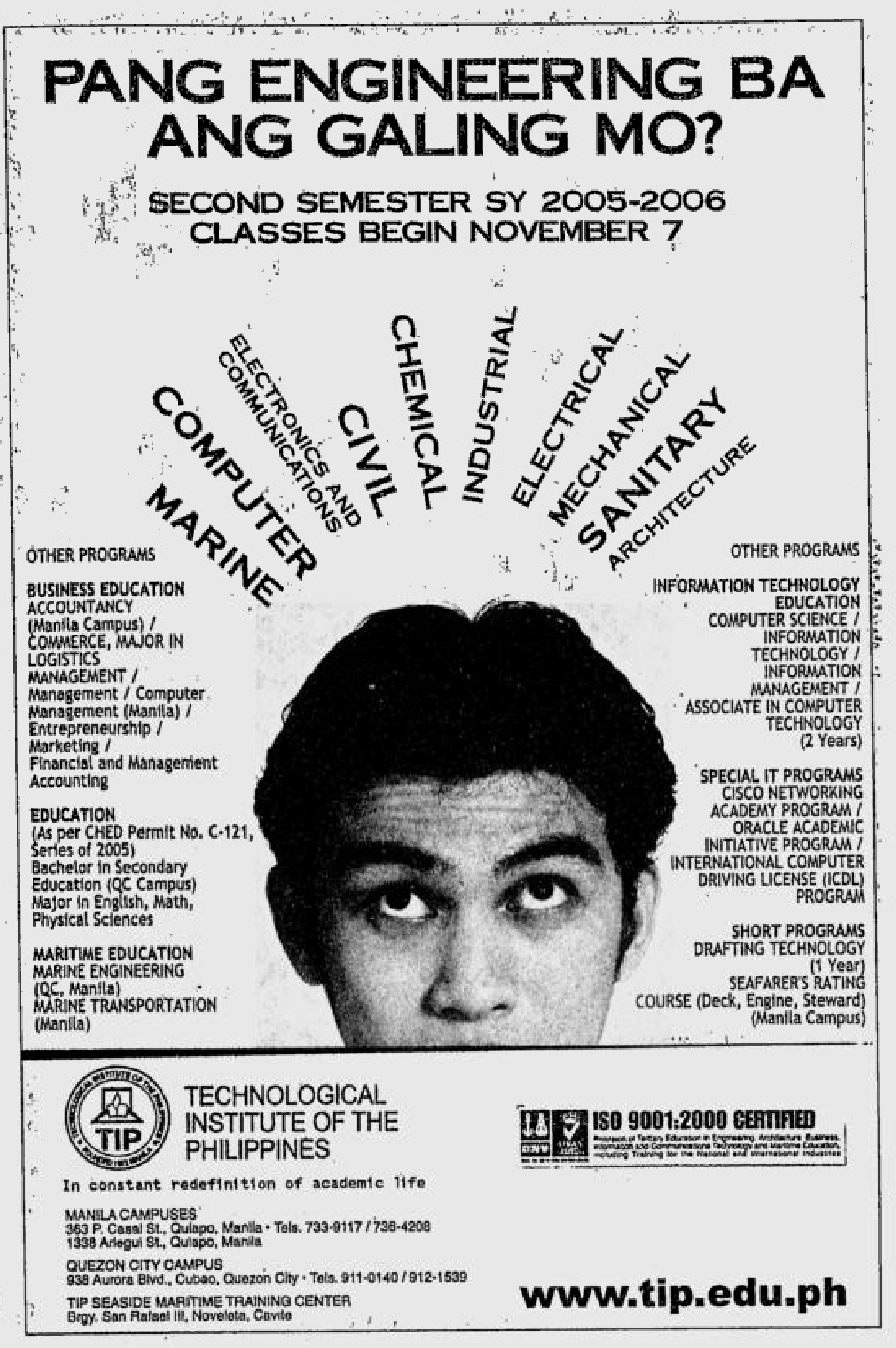
ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Consumers alerted vs bogus appliances

POLICE warned consumers yesterday against the proliferation of counterfeit appliances that may later cause accidents at home. The warning came after the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group seized on Wednesday P6.5 million worth of rice cookers, blenders, pressure cookers, and flat irons from different stores and warehouses in Caloocan City, Valenzuela City, and Cabanatuan City. The appliances bore the names "Micromatic" and "Standard," according to Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the CIDG-National Capital Region. Counterfeit products are below standard and may cause fires. *Luige A. del Puerto*

Firecrackers seized in Binondo raid

A CALL from a concerned resident led to the arrest of businessmen Robert Yap Cheng, alias Robert Yap, and Jet Cheng, alias Zheng Tingzhe, for storing P1.5-million worth of firecrackers in a warehouse in a thickly populated barangay in Binondo, Manila. The two men represented Tosako Trading with a warehouse and office at 605 Madrid St. Vicente Cheng. Another Chinese-Filipino businessman representing Tosako Trading remains at large. NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala, said the warehouse owners were not authorized to sell, distribute, manufacture, or use firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices. *Margaux C. Ortiz*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Safety, traffic measures in place for holiday break

By Abigail Ho, Jocelyn Uy, Tina Santos and Margaux Ortiz

AS THE All SOULS' DAY BREAK approaches, the Manila Electric Co. has put in place various preparatory measures and contingency plans to ensure uninterrupted power supply during that holiday.

In a statement issued yesterday, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna said customers within the Meralco franchise area could count on uninterrupted power service during the almost week-long holiday break.

Those going to the cemeteries were also assured of an adequate supply of electricity, provided that cemetery administrators undertake all the necessary preparations. Cuna advised cemetery personnel whose areas still had no additional electricity service to apply for the temporary service as soon as possible.

Safeguards

Cemetery visitors, on the other hand, should also be conscious of their use of electricity inside the cemeteries to prevent unnecessary power outages as a result of overloading.

"We advise people going to the cemeteries to prevent the excessive use of appliances, especially if the cemeteries have inadequate electric capacity and facilities," Cuna said. To prevent any such unexpected power outages, he urged cemetery administrators to check their electrical installations even before droves of people troop to the cemeteries.

"They should ensure that their switch boxes and circuit breakers are in proper working condition," he added.

The distribution utility has also put in place contingency measures that could be tapped in the event of unavoidable power interruptions.

Cuna said Meralco would be deploying emergency crews in strategic areas to ensure quick response in case of power outages.

Although busy with preparations for the All Saints' Day break, Meralco warned power thieves that the power distributor would remain vigilant in preventing power pilferage, even during the long break.

Muntinlupa City has reactivated on Wednesday its task force that would oversee a peaceful and orderly observance of the feast of the dead.

Task Force Oplan Kaluluwa was ordered to provide security to people on their way to the cemeteries starting Monday, said Mayor Jaime Fresnedi. The city has seven cemeteries: the Catholic Cemetery in Barangay Buli; the New Bilibid Prison Cemetery and the Japanese Cemetery in Barangay Poblacion; the Everest Memorial Park in Barangay Tunasan; and the Aguilar, Aglipay and City Cemeteries in Barangay Putatan.

The mayor has also mobilized the task force to protect terminals, malls, churches and parks from any untoward incidents.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, on the other hand, said personnel from the Manila Traffic and Peacekeeping Action Team (Matapat) and the City Security Force would help police in implementing security measures and enforcing restrictions at the North Cemetery, South Cemetery, La Loma Cemetery and the Chinese Cemetery.

Wheelchairs would also be available at the entrance of the North and South Cemeteries as part of the assistance provided by the Manila Youth volunteers for the elderly and handicapped.

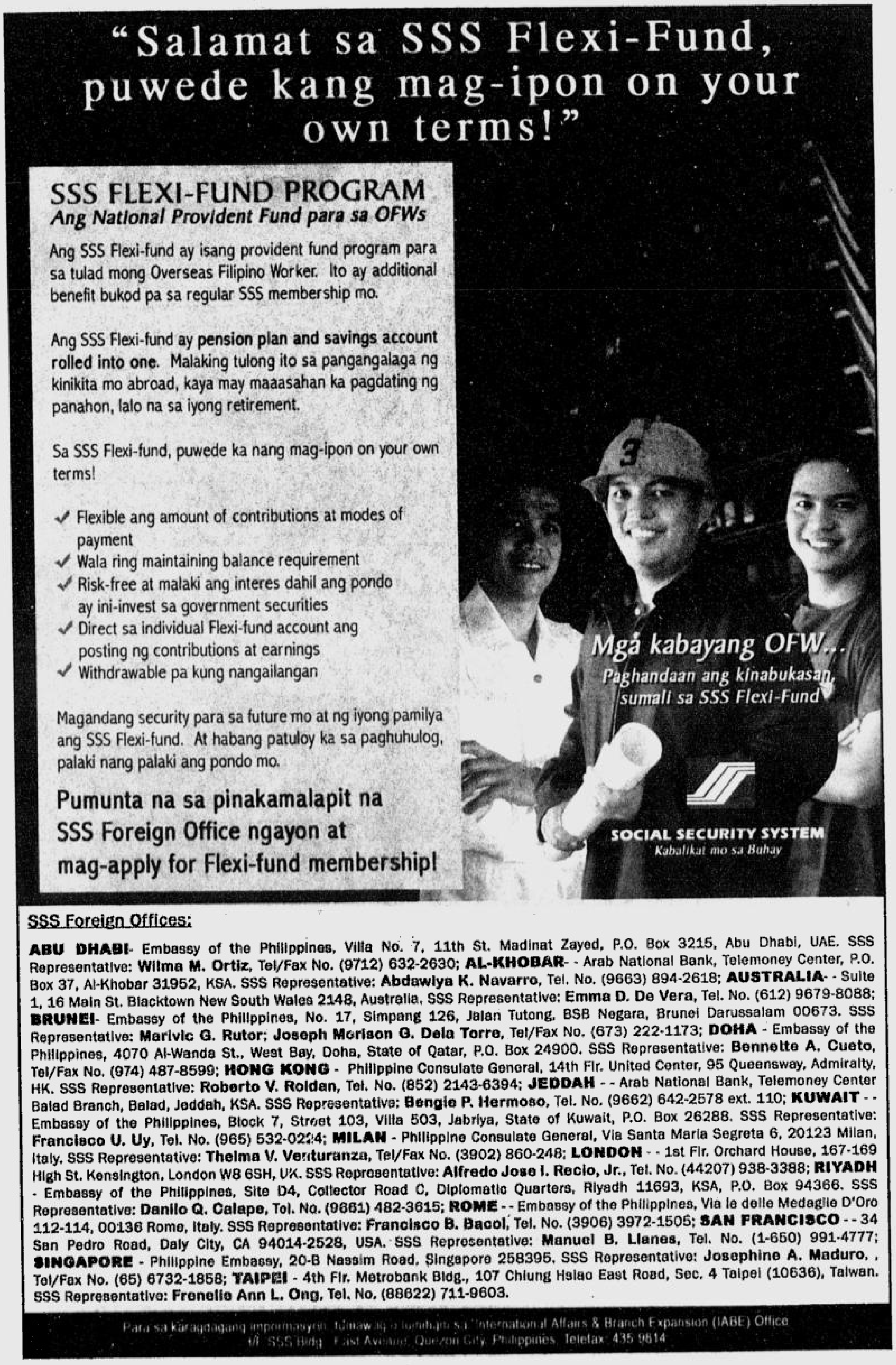
The Manila Police District (MPD) has already conducted "flushing out" operations to rid the city's cemeteries of criminal elements in preparation for the observance of All Soul's Day. Supt. Romulo Sapitula of MPD Station 3 said they were able to catch 43 vagrants at the North Cemetery last Tuesday.

"We received reports that robbers and thieves had used areas behind the tombs as hideouts," Sapitula said.

Peace and order

Meanwhile, Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II ordered the deployment of 159 policemen, 25 health workers, *barangay tanods*, traffic enforcers and anti-vice personnel to the Mandaluyong City Cemetery, the Mandaluyong Memorial Park, the San Felipe Neri Cemetery and the Paradise Park Cemetery on Nov. 1 and 2 to help maintain peace and order and provide assistance to cemetery goers.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) would begin over the weekend five days of round-the-clock assistance to commuters and motorists. Some 1,500 traffic enforcers of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center would be on full deployment from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 to handle traffic problems on major roads leading to the cemeteries.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WHAT'S INSIDE
- White Sox champs after 88 years /A28
- Reigning titlist Davao strikes again /A31

Two La Salle officials claim they're clean

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE TWO DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY team officials pinpointed by the school as having helped two Green Archers secure their eligibility in the UAAP basketball wars in 2002 maintained their innocence yesterday.

Liaison officer Raul Lacson said he was surprised that he was implicated in the scandal, while assistant team manager Manny Salgado said his "conscience is clear."

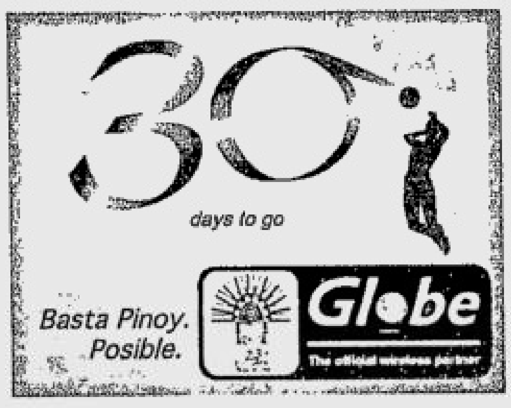
In a press conference Wednesday, La Salle pointed to Lacson and Salgado as the team officials who processed the players' high school records, based on the findings of a four-man investigating committee.

But La Salle president Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, and executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco said the findings are still the "initial part of the investigation" and the committee tasked to handle the case will continue its probe.

Thrust as the central figures in the controversy are players Mark Lester Benitez and Timoteo Gatchalian III, who were part of the Archers' 2004 UAAP championship run.

"They didn't inform me (that they will release my name to the public)," said Lacson yesterday. "All

TWO/ A28



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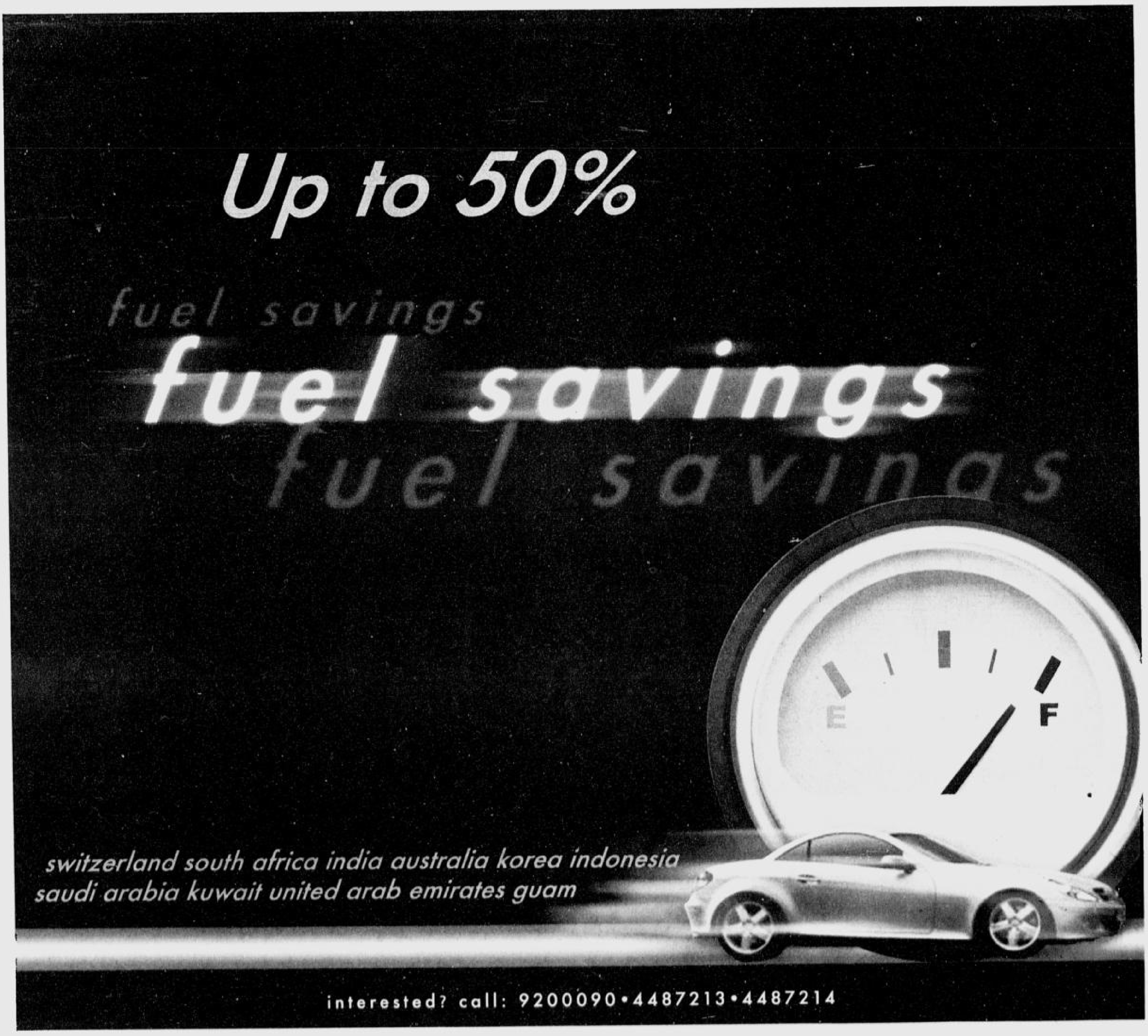

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National team, Pagunsan stay on top in HK Amateur

HONG KONG—JUVIC PAGUNSAN slowed down with a 2-under par 69 yesterday but remained on top along with RP Team A halfway through the Hong Kong Amateur Open championship at the Hong Kong Golf Club's Old course here.

Counting his fiery 63 Wednesday, the 27-year-old Pagunsan posted a 132 aggregate in the individual competition for a one-stroke lead over teammate Tonton Asistio, who emerged the best scorer among the Filipinos with a 68 for 133.

Others at 133 were Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera who carded a 68, and Thai Kwaichai Tannin, who made a big charge with a 66.

Jay Bayron, spearhead of the RP Team B in this annual vent ruled by the Filipinos last year, shot a second straight 68 for 136, in a tie with China's Chen Mingchuan (65), and Singapore's Choo Tze-huang (67).

Marvin Dumandan, also of RP Team B, failed to sustain his fine 67 start as he could only match par 71 for a share of 10th place with Timothy Low of Singapore (71) and Tao Huang of China (74) at 138.

With a combined 137 from Pagunsan and Asistio, RP Team A scored a 265 to keep the lead in the team competition, although its six-shot lead was cut down to five as China took the top challenger's role from Singapore with a 136 for 270.

The three-to-play, two-to-count event serves as part of the Filipinos' tuneup for next month's SEA Games in Manila.

The RP teams' participation here is sponsored by golf patron Ricky Razon through the National Golf Association of the Philippines with Gen. Bert Sabularse, NGAP training committee chairman, as team captain. Head coach is Bong Lopez with Chris Guerrero as his assistant.

Michael Bibat, whose 68 didn't count for RP Team A in the first round, fared badly with a 74 this time.

With Dumandan matching par and Gene Bondoc failing to count again with a 72, RP Team B slid from third to fifth in the team standings with 140 and a 274 total, a stroke behind Thailand's Team B and two shots adrift of Singapore.

Barako tackle Realtors; Aces oppose Tigers

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	5	1
Talk 'N Text	4	1
Red Bull	3	2
Alaska	3	2
Air21	2	3
Sta. Lucia	2	3
Ginebra	3	3
Coca-Cola	1	4
San Miguel	0	4

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Barako
7:25 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola

RED BULL BARAKO AND ALASKA try to stay in the top half of the standings when they take on separate opponents today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Barako collide with the Sta. Lucia Realtors at 4:40 p.m. while the Aces tangle with the Coca-Cola Tigers in the mainer at 7:25 p.m.

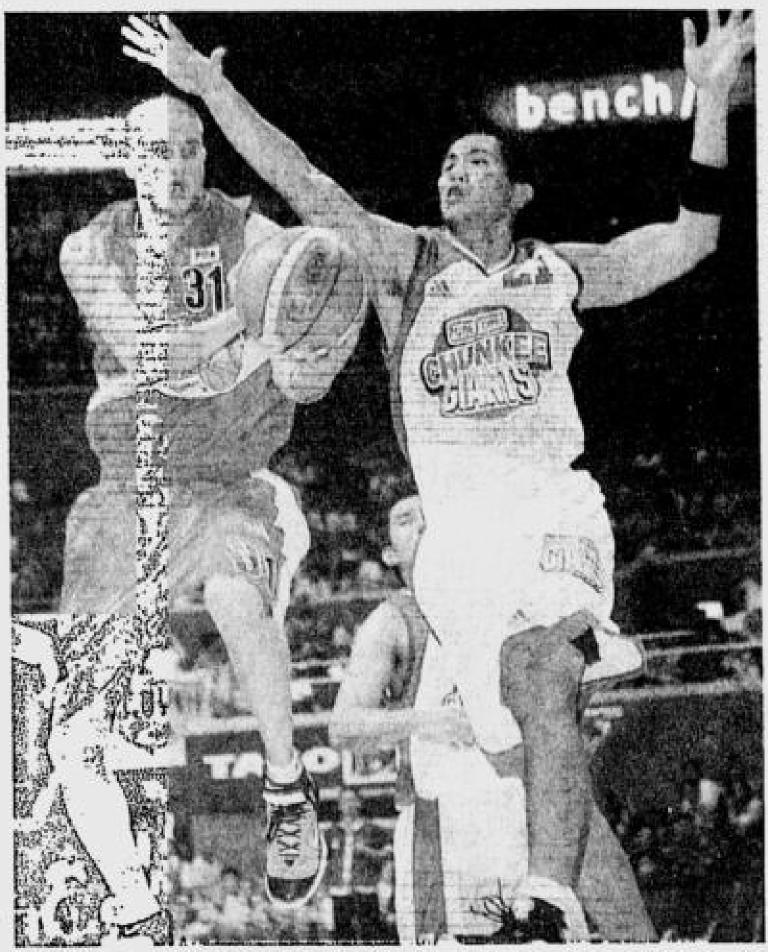
With 3-2 records, Red Bull and Alaska are slightly favored over their respective rivals, who are desperate to check their skid.

The Realtors dropped their last two games against Talk 'N Text and Air21 after replacing Luke Whitehead with Leon White.

The Tigers are in a deeper rut. Slapped with a third straight loss by the Purefoods Chunkee Giants recently, they have a 1-4 record which is just a shade ahead of the winless San Miguel Beermen.

White went scoreless in the final period against the Express, leaving the offensive load to Dennis Espino, Chester Tolomia and Marlou Aquino, who failed to neutralize Air21's explosive finish.

He has to contribute big numbers for Sta. Lucia to avoid a third straight loss from Quemont Greer and the Barakos. *June Navarro*



COCA-COLA spitfire John Arigo goes up against Purefoods Chunkee's Kerby Raymundo during their game Tuesday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Parrenas, Tipon snare gold medals

TAMPERE, FINLAND—LIGHT FLYWEIGHT Warlito Parrenas and bantamweight Joan Tipon bested their respective rivals to win the gold medals recently in the 19-nation 26th Tammer International Cup at the Pynnikki Hall here.

Parrenas started slow but finished impressively in a 44-22 victory over Irishman Conor Ahern.

Not to be outdone, Tipon, winner of the Best Boxer award in the recent Asian Championships held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, sustained his excellent form with a 19-5 win over Mohamad Ibrahim of Jordan.

"The twin wins showed the readiness of our pugs going into the 23rd SEA Games," said Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Harry Tañamor, Joegen Ladon and Mark Jason Melligen, settled for bronze medals as Team Philippines, coached by Ronald Chavez, landed third overall.

The trip was sponsored by the FG Foundation, Ginebra San Miguel, Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Accel.

GMA to watch SEAG football

By Musong R. Castillo

MEN'S FOOTBALL WILL OFFICIALLY KICK off the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Bacolod on Nov. 19, and President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to grace the action there either on Nov. 22 or 23.

The formal opening ceremonies is scheduled on Nov. 27 at the Rizal Park in Manila, but the President reportedly has confirmed her attendance in Cebu for the formal opening of some Games competitions there. Cebu and Bacolod are SEAG satellite venues.

Meanwhile, Bacolod SEAG Organizing Committee (Basoc) chair Monico Puentevella yesterday issued an appeal to Department of Budget and Management Secretary Romulo Neri to release the remaining P50 million from the Palace fund that Ms Arroyo promised.

It is the final installment of the P300 million which the President has earmarked for the hosting of the event.

"While some private sponsors are still coming in, the Philsoc (Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee) still needs all the help it can get," Puentevella said. "It's (the SEAG) just around the corner and we are finalizing equipment, venues and hotel (expenses)."

Sherwood Hills Chairman's Cup gets going tomorrow

ABOUT A HUNDRED MEMBER-guest teams are seeing action in the fourth Chairman's Cup of the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club set tomorrow in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

Sherwood Hills chair Robert John Sobrepeña, in whose honor the 18-hole tournament is being held, will lead the cast of players vying for the top awards in three divisions.

Trophies and merchandise items will be awarded to the overall winner as well as the champions in two divisions and the sponsors' division.

Major sponsors are Golforce, Club Leisure Management and MRT. Hole sponsors include Federal Management, War Bird, Cork, Information Professionals Inc., Wilson, Sports Specialists, Isuzu, Cargo Aire, New Life Aesthetic&Plastic Surgery Center, Johnnie Walker, Pilipinas Teleserve, Asia-Pacific Golf Corp. and Custom Clubmakers.

MISA (left) and Lhuillier formalize the latter's appointment with a handshake.

Tennis taps Lhuillier as RP manager

THE PHILIPPINE TENNIS ASSOCIATION has designated Davis Cup team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier as the country's team manager of the men's and women's squads for the Southeast Asian Games.

"We are very glad to have on board someone who loves the sport dearly and someone who knows how to inspire the players," Philta president Manuel Misa said.

"Jean Henri is familiar with such challenges," said Philta secretary general Raymond Suarez. "He has been team manager of our most recent Davis Cup teams. The boys know him and respect him."

Lhuillier, who played competitively in the club circuit in the United States during his school days, staged the four-leg Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit in 2003 which offered the largest local pot money in recent years.

In accepting his appointment, Lhuillier said he is always honored to be part of Team Philippines. "I know that the members of our Team Philippines are preparing well."

Big 4-stag derby up in Pasay

WELL-KNOWN cockers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces clash starting at 6 p.m. today in another 4-stag derby at the Pasay City Cockpit that will feature more than 70 fights and with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as exclusive sponsor. Host Muroy Dolorico said prominent cockers like Tony Marfori, Efren Canlas, Joey and Buboy delos Santos, Rolly Ligon, Mauro Prieto, Danny Ty, William Go, the ASF Group, Pepito Ngo, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, Ramon Mancenares, the Madlambayan brothers, Lito Roque, among others, are vying for the cash pot of P300,000. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750. Up next is the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-stag derby on Nov. 4, the final leg of GCAP's stag derby series.

2 entries lead SJC Big Event

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the big event 8-stag derby will be staged tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum. Two top entries—PABL Super Pacman Complexor 3000 of Patrick Antonio and Boy de Roca and RJ Mulawin of Rudy Albano—are the early frontrunners after posting four wins each and sharing the day champion's prize of P400,000 Wednesday night. Meanwhile, GCAP members have agreed to hold the third Big Event 8-stag derby on Nov. 9. On Nov. 3, the SJC management will hold the Daytime 3-Stag Derby with popular promoters Aba Badiola and Doc Jovy as hosts. Entry fee is only P5,500 for a guaranteed prize of P400,000. For inquiries, call 725-5665, 725-5369 or 727-7086 and look for Ariel.

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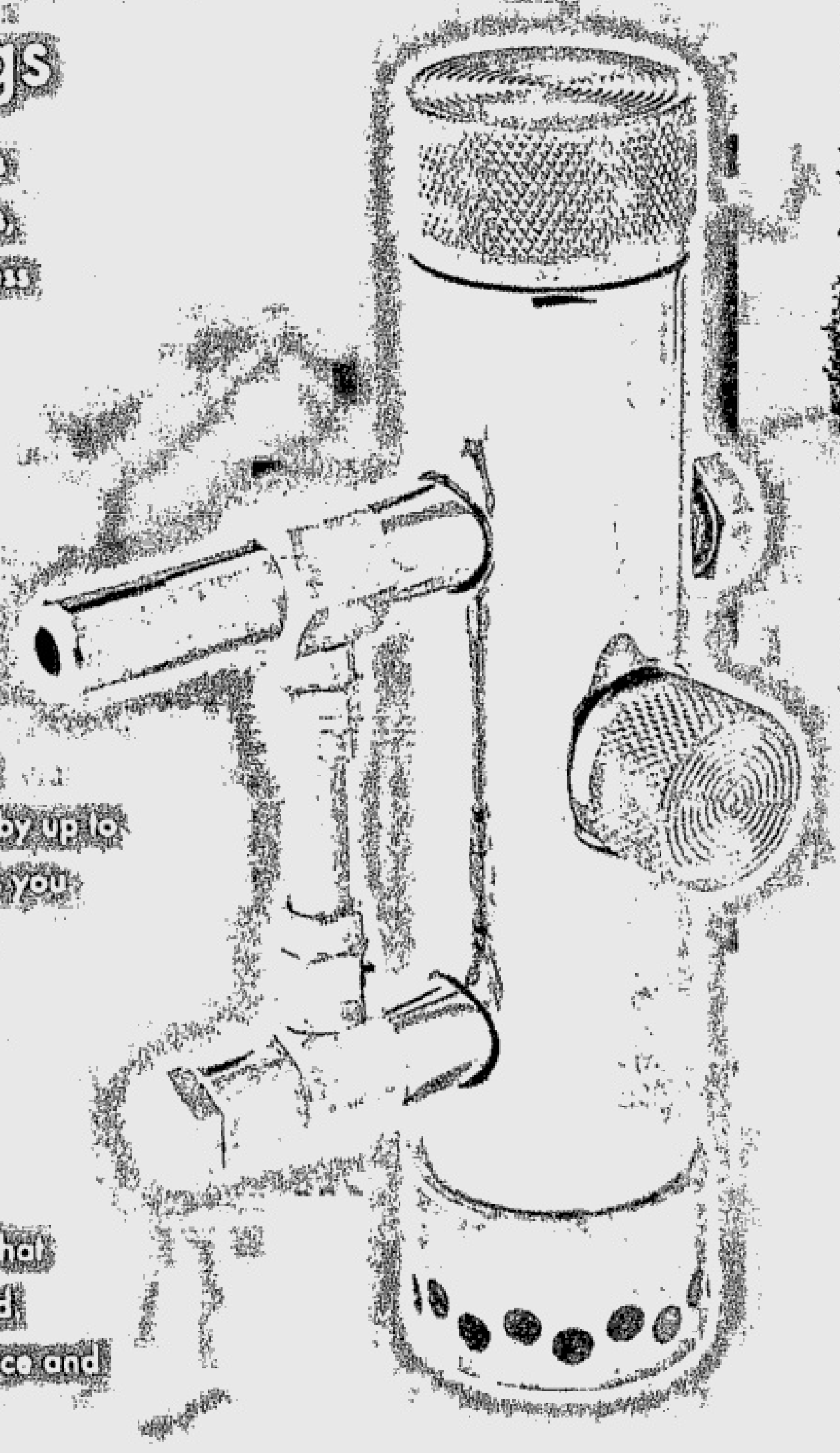

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White Sox champs after 88 years

HOUSTON—The Chicago White Sox are World Series champions again at last, and yet another epic streak of futility is not just wiped away but swept away.

After seven scoreless innings, Jermaine Dye singled home the only run in the eighth, and the White Sox beat the Houston Astros, 1-0, Wednesday night to win their first title in 88 years.

Just a year ago, the same story line captivated baseball when the long-suffering Boston Red Sox swept St. Louis to capture their first title in 86 years.

"It's unbelievable, unbelievable," catcher A.J. Pierzynski said.

It was the third title for the White Sox, following wins in 1906 and 1917. And it was the first since "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and the "Black Sox" threw the 1919 Series against Cincinnati.

Owner Jerry Reinsdorf once said he'd trade all six of the Chicago Bulls' NBA titles for a single Series ring. No swap is needed now: He's got the prize he dreamed of since he was a kid growing up in Brooklyn.

"I hope this is not a dream," he said, holding the trophy under his left arm like a kid clutching his first baseball glove.

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said during the regular season that he might retire if his team went on to win the Series, and now he'll have to reveal that decision. He hinted after the game that he wanted a new contract.

"Now I'm going to make my money," he said playfully, looking at Reinsdorf.

JERMAINE Dye holds his World Series MVP trophy after the White Sox swept the Astros in four games. REUTERS

Chicago's sweep, its eighth straight postseason win and 16th in 17 games overall, made it only the second team to go through the postseason 11-1 since the extra round of playoffs was added in 1995, joining the 1999 Yankees. But the White Sox fans didn't get to enjoy a single celebration in person: the division title and all three rounds of the postseason were won on the road.

Houston, which finally won a pennant for the first time since it joined the National League in 1962, became the first team swept in its Series debut.

On a night when pitching dominated, winner Freddy Garcia and Houston's Brandon Backe pitched shutout ball for seven innings, with Backe allowing four hits and Garcia five. They each struck out seven.

Brad Lidge, Houston's closer, came in to start the eighth, and Chicago sent up Willie Harris to bat for Garcia.

Harris lined a single to left leading off, and that led to Houston's downfall. Scott Podsednik bunted a difficult high pitch in front of the plate, and the speedy Harris took second on the sacrifice. Carl Everett pinch hit for Tadahito Iguchi and grounded to second, moving Harris to third.

Dye, the Series MVP, swung and missed Lidge's next pitch, took a ball, then grounded a single up the middle, clapping his hands as he left the plate. Harris trotted home from third, and the White Sox celebrated in the third-base dugout.

But it wasn't quite over yet.

Cliff Politte relieved to start the bottom half and hit Willy Taveras on the hand with one out. Politte bounced a wild pitch on his first offering to Lance Berkman, moving Taveras to second, then intentionally walked Berkman, nearly throwing away the next pitch.

Morgan Ensberg flied to right-center, dropping him to 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position in the Series, and Chicago brought in left-hander Neal Cotts to face pinch-hitter Jose Vizcaino, who hit a broken-bat grounder to shortstop.

Juan Uribe charged in, backhanded the ball by the grass and threw hard to first, beating Vizcaino by half a step.

After Chicago wasted a leadoff double by Pierzynski in the ninth, Jason Lane lofted a 3-2 pitch off Bobby Jenks into short center for a single leading off the bottom half.

Brad Ausmus sacrificed and pinch-hitter Chris Burke fouled out to Uribe, who fell into the left-field seats as he leaned in to make the grab. Uribe ran to the mound with the ball and gave Jenks a slap.

Orlando Palmeiro then pinch hit, and grounded to short for the final out, with Paul Konerko gloving the ball a half-step before Palmeiro landed on the bag. A postseason filled with umpires making questionable calls ended with them getting it right.

Chicago players poured out of their dugout and jumped around on the mound. Astros players were stone-faced, then came out to wave to their fans and throw caps into the seats.

Houston was 0-for-11 with runners in scoring position on the night and 10-for-48 (.208) in the Series, and the Astros were shutout for the final 15 innings, stranding 18 runners.

Jenks got his second save, while Lidge fell to 0-2 in the Series and 0-3 in the postseason. *AP*

CHICAGO White Sox catch
celebrate after a 1-0 win ove
Baseball's 2005 World Serie

Brand Loyalty to Hanford® makes a Housewife win a Honda City

By Nenet Galang-Pereña

Jennifer with her family and their Honda City

"Winning a car was farthest from my mind when I got that incredible call from Hanford," gushed Jennifer Mataga, a 32-year-old home maker from Sampaloc.

But win she did, the 2005 Honda City CD6 1.3 A MT four-door sedan – the first prize in Hanford's Honda City Raffle promo draw last September 30. "God is really good 'Pag talagang para sa iyo, ibibigay", she adds breathlessly as she casts her eyes heavenward.

Brand Loyalty

For Jennifer, brand loyalty paid off, as she has been buying Hanford briefs for her husband, Jose Roy, and two sons, Landrel (eight- year-old grader at Albert Elementary School) and Khass Vin (three and a half year-old preschooler) either from Divisoria or SM Quiapo since day one.

The family of four was at the office of Mansfield Int'l, manufacturer and distributor of Hanford in Quezon City to pick up their Honda after a formal turn-over ceremony. "Now we can say goodbye to our old Toyota", confides Jose Roy. "*Itinirik na kami nito*", he adds in jest.

Landrel was beside himself with joy, as he proudly showed off the garter of the Hanford briefs he was wearing that day and all his young life to the Mansfield staff. "*Akala ko nga, brief din napanalunan ni Mommy nung tumawag sila*", he bursts out from his seat, full of glee.

Preference for the Classic

"My boys prefer the classic white of Hanford, and malinis tingnan, madaling paputiin", Jennifer, who does direct marketing for an apparel and food supplements firm part-time, confides.

Indeed, Hanford is a multi-awarded brand, which has enjoyed the patronage of Filipinos since the 1950's proof of its superior quality and workmanship. It has been conferred numerous awards such as the International Award for the Best Trade Name given in Madrid, Spain and the Superbrand Status in 2004.

For the current year, Hanford bagged the Golden Five Continents Award for Quality and Excellence and the Golden Award for Best Trade Name in Paris, France.

Hanford Line

Hanford carries a complete line of men's and boy's underwear. Its briefs come in several styles: classic, comforter and bikini. It also has boxer shorts (plain and printed) and supporters. Shirts are available in V or Round-neck and in camisa de chino in all wonderful colors. And of course, there is the traditional sando of the tropics.

There are tempting offers for the Matagas to sell their new Honda, but this is not an option. "This Honda is a blessing from heaven and Hanford," and we will never part with it. In fact, winning the car has further strengthened their resolve to stick to the brand and buy other Hanford products like undershirt, sando and supporter.

For this family, winning a first prize for the first time reinforces their fidelity to God and to the Filipino value of loyalty to a brand that has opened for them the door to prosperity, Hanford.

You may have the same luck as Jennifer

For those who may want to have the same luck as the Matagas, another Honda City can be won in the grand draw on January 6, 2006. So, go now to your favorite store and buy all the Hanford products you need and increase your chances of winning. Who knows, your raffle coupon may be the one picked for the top prize. You may be the one driving a brand new car in the new year courtesy of Hanford.

Mrs. Jennifer Mataga, the lucky housewife

Other Mansfield brands included in the promo

Hanford's sister brands such as Hartmann, NBA, Justice League, Looney Tunes and Winx underwears are likewise included in the promo supported by Indophil and Lycra. Just a P250 purchase of any of the above Mansfield product entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to be an owner of a Honda City. Hurry, promo ends on December 15, 2005■

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1000 Series of 2005

Cuesta borrows engine, prevails

AYRTON CUESTA PROVED HIS 2004 CADET Karter of the Year award was no fluke when he ruled the Cadet 60 Expert class race with a borrowed engine in the concluding leg of the Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Phils. in Carmona, Cavite, recently.

The 10-year-old Cuesta, named after the late Formula One champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil, wouldn't pass up the chance to shine for the last time before a new kid succeeds him for the Cadet award.

When his father, veteran rally driver Dominique Cuesta, failed to get the right performance from his old engine during Saturday's time trials, they borrowed the practice engine of Ayrton's Japanese teammate.

After settling for third place in Race 1, the grade three student of Lourdes School-Quezon City, he outsmarted Roman Academia at the start of Race 2 to take the flag. Ayrton, who is backed by M&M Racing, Microtel Inn and Suites, Big Shots Billiards, Basics BMW and QC Autosports, won in 13 minutes and 49.226 seconds.

The victory boosted Cuesta to third place with 327.5 points in the Cadet Karter of the Year Award.

2 La Sal

I said in the interview (with th
finding committee) was the
Lacson said he was inter
twice. "The first time, I was
before Benitez," he said. "Th
ond time, I was asked to clari
tain things."
Lacson, who also serves
team's statistician, said he is k
out other details because he st
to consult with his legal coun
"My conscience is clear," sa
gado. "When they called me
terview, I was done in 15 min
told them I know nothing ab

Harbour Centre ren

WITH THE DEPARTURE OF ITS marquee players, will Harbour Centre conjure up the same magic and drawing power in the PBL this season?

The Port Masters, one of the league's popular squads, lost its key players in the pro ranks including Mark Cardona of La Salle and Paolo Bugia and Larry Fonacier of Ateneo.

"We lost some of our key players but our commitment to play to the highest level remains the same," said team owner Mikee Romero. "Fans want to see a disciplined team, one that plays real hard but clean and that's what we are going to do."

Newly installed coach Dindo Pumaren formed a competitive roster which will showcase the speed and athleticism of Joseph Yeo and NCAA stalwart Kelvin dela Peña in the backcourt; the brute strength of Fil-am Robbie Reyes and Jerwin Gaco at center; and the consistency of Christian Luanzon, Red Vicente and Jenkins Mesina from the wings.

Jerome Paterno, a member of the Mythical Five in the NCAA, University of the East standouts Marcy Arellano and Earn Saguindel will also provide the needed firepower.

Veteran guard Ryan Dy, who played a major role in Welcoat's championship run last conference, is expected to bring stability to the team along with Rommel Dizon and Richard Alonzo.

Other noteworthy cagers in the lineup are Angel Raymundo and Jason Ballesteros.

"We have a young team because only four are holdovers from last conference's team," said former

HARBOUR CENTRE owner Mikee Ron
Heroes Cup. (From left) Vic Escudero,
and Jun Tingco. Players in the front row
dela Peña. Standing are Richard Alonzo
Balesteros, Angel Raymundo, Rommel

mentor Tonichi Yturri, who has be
elevated as team manager. "De
that, we have a fighting team."
Pumaren will have June Tiong
and Vic Escudero as assistants,
Erick Arejola has been promoted as
sistant team manager. Derick Pum
remains as the team consultant of
bour Centre, the country's biggest
national breakbulk and bulk termi
Harbour Centre's success, how
er, will hinge in large par
whether they can play with th
fensive toughness that has been

PBL Heroes Cup: Fr

THE COUNTRY'S TOP AMATEUR players will be sharing the limelight with a bevy of fresh talents when the Philippine Basketball League's 2006 Heroes Cup unfolds tomorrow at the La Salle Greenhills gym.

Magnolia Ice Cream is tabbed as the team to beat with league star Arwind Santos and Fil-Am Kelly Williams.

"I will do everything to give M
nolia another championship,"
Santos, who is expected to join
pro ranks next year. "We're very
fident but we have to contin
working hard."
But Magnolia is facing a strong
lenge from Toyota Otis, which sn
top draft pick Joe Calvin Devance

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Host Manila grabs MYG overall lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA PICKED UP FOUR GOLD medals in the rain at the start of the track and field competitions to wrest the lead in the Manila Youth Games national invitational yesterday.

The host city, shut out in the first four days of competitions, finally crashed the winner's circle with two young shot put bets from Sta. Mesa leading the charge at the improvised track oval inside the UST field.

Manila could have won more in athletics but the running events were postponed because of the nonstop rains that wiped out the lane markers of the makeshift track.

Eliza Marie Paez of Sisters of Mary in Sta. Mesa prevailed in the girls' 12-under shot put with a 5.95-meter throw even as Angelo Villamil duplicated the feat in the boys' division with a 7.26m effort.

Later in the day, Marilou Anila and Rudolph Hernandez ruled the girls' 16-17 and boys' 13-15 javelin throw events, respectively, for Manila.

Rey Fe Abling captured the first gold for Taguig in the same event by topping the boys' 16-17 division.

"We finally broke into the gold medal column," said Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza, whose wards are expected to rule the week-long competitions.

The Manilans, who finished with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 4-2-5, are also strong in swimming, which begins today, and taekwondo, which is set Sunday.

Muntinlupa (4-1-0) failed to add a win to the four gold medals it amassed in football during the first three days and dropped to second while Laguna, Parañaque and Quezon City had a lone gold each.

It was a 1-2 Manila finish in the girls' 12-under shot put as Paez's teammate Tony Jean Laurena took the silver (5.24m). Bohol's Limbeth Lanoy snared the bronze with a 4.95m heave.

Candon City's Marlon Gacoscos settled for the silver in the boys' side with 6.53m, while Roger Hagutin of Bohol bagged the bronze with 6.46m.

Amila threw the spear to a distance of 23.20m to win the event, besting Baguio's Stephanie Lictig (21.76) and Che Che Roman of Manila (20.16m).

Hernandez took the plum with a 39.68m effort, handily beating Candon City's Brayan Bautista who was second with 1.45m and Ramon Agtag of Manila, third with 29.12m.

Abling's golden heave was 49.32m. Parañaque's Romel Buyog was a far second (36.17m) and Bulacan's RJ Bulaong third (30.98m).

er A.J. Pierzynski (left) and pitcher Bobby Jenks r the Houston Astros in Game 4 of Major League s in Houston, Texas. REUTERS

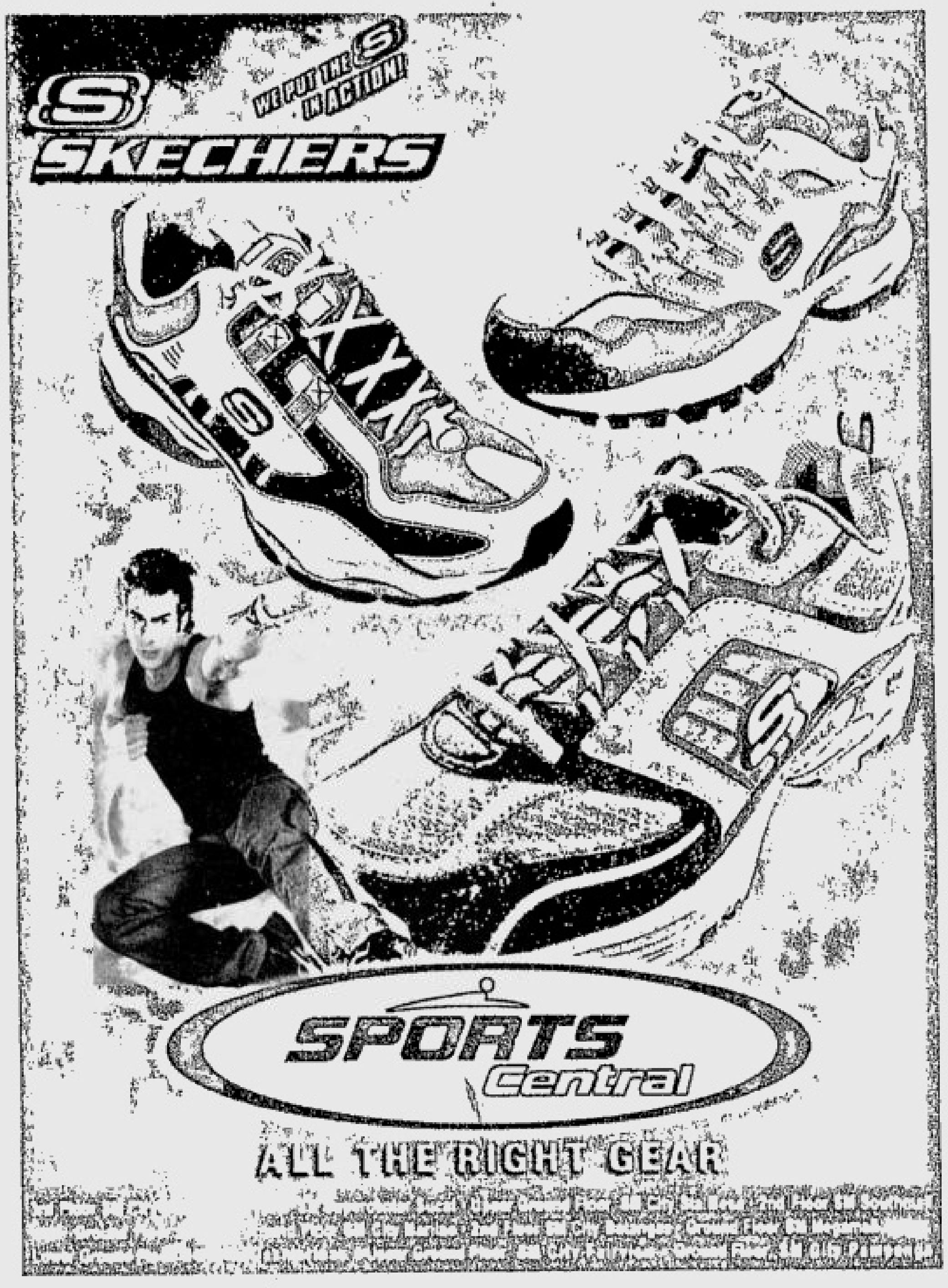
Krzyzewski US coach till 2008

TORONTO—MIKE KRZYZEWSKI was named head coach of the US men's basketball team through the 2008 Beijing Olympics Wednesday.

Krzyzewski, who led Duke University to three national collegiate titles, becomes the first college coach to lead the national team since professionals were allowed to compete in the Olympics in 1992.

Once the world's undisputed basketball superpower, US "Dream Teams" stocked with NBA talent ruled the international game with gold medal-winning performances at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

That dominance has faded in recent years, the US slumping to a sixth place finish at the 2002 world championships in Indianapolis before unhappily settling for bronze at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens. *Reuters*



WE PUT THE S IN ACTION!
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le officials . . .

From page A25

They didn't get a thing. After that, I never bothered to ask them again. So I was a bit surprised when my name came out. I wasn't informed that my name would be released."

According to the report, Benitez and Gatchalian both insisted that Lacson secured their Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) from the Department of Education.

The PEPTCR is an exam taken in lieu of a high school diploma for entry into college.

Salgado was identified in the La Salle report as "possibly the other person with prior knowledge" of the fake documents.

The La Salle report also noted that "no other La Salle official was tagged by all those interviewed."

Salgado also denied that he's a contractual employee of La Salle.

"I'm not getting a single centavo from the team," said Salgado, who was banned for life in the UAAP after assaulting Far Eastern U star Arwind Santos following the Tams' Game 1 win over the Archers in the recent 2005 Finals series.

ains a potent force

ero with players and coaching staff of the team that will take part in the 2006 PBL eam manager Tonichi Yturri, coach Dindo Pumaren, Dr. Chris Cruz, Erick Arejola are Red Vicente, Joseph Yeo, Ryan Dy, Earn Saguindel, Marcy Arellano and Kelvin . Jerwin Gaco, Jerome Peterno, Christian Luanzon, Robbie Reyes, Jason Dizon, Jenkins Mesina and Boy Morales.

team's trademark last season.

With the 6-foot-6 Reyes and the rugged 6-foot-4 Gaco manning the fort, and Yeo, dela Peña and Dy taking charge of the team's offense, the Port Masters would certainly be no pushovers.

Romero, who has also supported teams in several leagues including the NBC, MBL and the UAAP, added that the team learned valuable lessons from its debut last conference.

"It's hard to predict how we're going to perform this time but one thing is sure, the coming conference will be one exciting tournaments and we will always give our best," said Romero, who hopes to translate his success in the sport terminal business on the basketball court.

"Our basketball programs are geared toward luring children away from dangerous drugs or any misadventures, and in the same time giving them aspirations in terms of having a solid future," said the young chief executive. "Basketball leads you to places and that's the reason why we are helping players at different levels."

esh talents abound

Devance, a highly touted Fil-Am recruit from Hawaii, is expected to provide stability to the Knights' bid for their first league title.

Bain or Shine, formerly known as Welcoat Paints, will bank on its seasoned lineup led by Marvin Ortiguerra, JR Reyes, Eugene Tan, Jojo Tangkay, Jay Coching and Erwin Sta. Maria.

Joseph Yeo will banner Harbour Centre's campaign, along with promising rookies Kelvin dela Peña and Marcy Arellano.

Veteran Alex Compton, the league's top clutch shooter, will remain as Montaña's go-to-guy following the departure of Jondan Salvador and Al Magpayo. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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Promo period: October 14 to November 6, 2005 + Free items good until supplies last Per DTI-NCR Permit no.6167, series of 2005

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tanauan upsets GM Antonio's Tagaytay A

TANAUAN CITY STRUCK ON THE EVEN boards to down powerhouse Tagaytay "A" and gain a share of the lead after six rounds of the 2005 Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship at the Tagaytay Sports Center in Tagaytay City.

Fide Master Rico Salimbagat beat fellow FM Fernie Donguines on board 2 and Roel Abelgas downed Rodolfo Panopio on board 4 to key their team's 2.5-1.5 win over the host squad.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio scored the lone victory for Tagaytay "A" by crushing IM Richard Bitoon. The board 3 match ended in a draw.

Erstwhile solo leader and defending champion Alabang was held to a 2-2 standoff by Parañaque City. Alabang also drew its match in the fifth.

The back-to-back draws pulled Alabang, the team led by GM Nelson Mariano II, into a tie with Tanauan City at 5.0.

Parañaque, anchored by IM Ronald Bancod, shared third spot with Tagaytay "B" at 4.5.

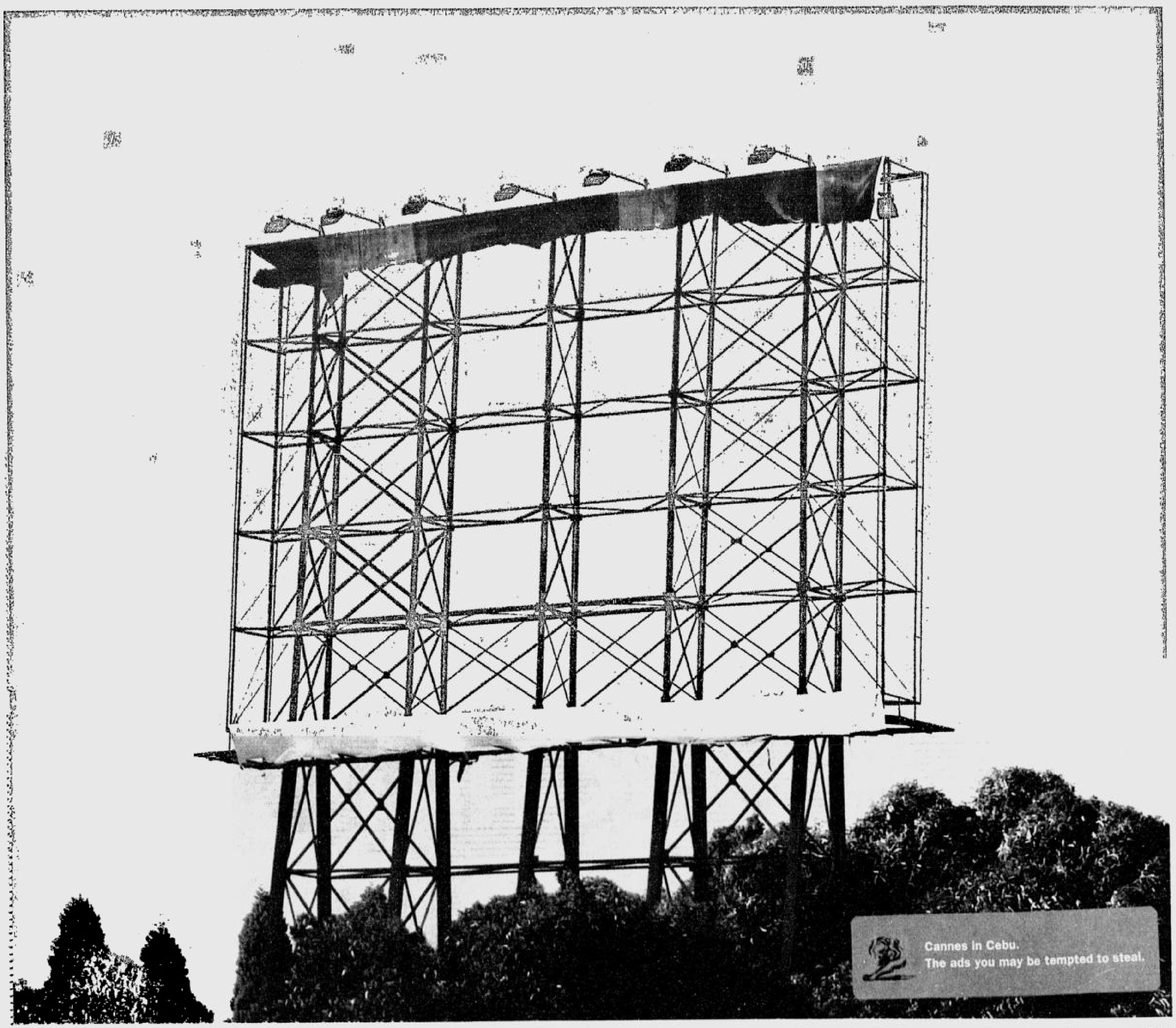
Tagaytay "B" whipped Surigao del Sur, 3.5-0.5. Eleven-year-old FM Wesley So led the rout with a victory over FM Vince Alaan on board 2. Rhobel Legaspi and Allan Macala also won their respective matches on boards 3 and 4.

PRADA CHAMPS: La Salle Green Hills players and team officials pose for posterity after their championship victory in the Private School Athletic Development Association (Prada) juniors division. (Standing, from left) Nongnong Calanog, assistant coach Mark Reyes, high school principal Br. Felipe Belleza, Jr., FSC; head coach Bert dela Rosa, Mikee Reyes, Dino de la Concepcion, Anton Reyes, Santino Hermoso, Vince Fran, Jed Manguerra, Benjamin Bolivar, coach Mon Celis, coach Mon Amador and Angel. (Kneeling, same order) Jason Padilla, Marco Yulo, Joe Guiao, Andrew Musngi, Mikko Sia and Simon Tantoco.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Habagat 2. Ang Seaman 3. Je t'Aime
Race 2—1. Tervalac 2. Presidentiable/Smiling Jada 3. Candy's Angel
Race 3—1. Valiant Queen 2. Native Talent 3. Bomb Shell 4. Mandalay Bay
Race 4—1. El Love Señora 2/. Flying Strike 3. Lord of the Ring 4. Yao Man
Race 5—1. Desert Fly 2. Air Force One 3. Guad/Maria Makiling
Race 6—1. Accomplice 2. Pilgrim 3. Beatitudes 4. River Bandit
Race 7—1. Tres Jaune 2. Ilocos Pride 3. Western Legend 4. Super Wind
Race 8—1. Bumpy Johnson 2. At All Cost 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Rebecca's Magic
Race 9—1. Red Phoenix/Wabtied Forever 2. Scarlet Velvet 3. King of Arabia 4. Rivaldo



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(My family and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who condoled with us in our hour of bereavement. We are especially grateful to the chair, president and members of the board of trustees of the Far Eastern University, Red Bull team owner George Chua, team manager Tony Chua, Raffy Casyao and the Red Bull Barako team headed by coach Yeng Guiao, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud and his friends, national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his father, Olympian shooter Tom Ong, billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, horse owner Hermie Esguerra, former Bulacan governor Obet Pagdanganan and staff Jun Montaos, Jean Henri Lhuillier and Bea Lucero, Hector Jimenez, Mildred Amon, Rhea Rapera and Cecil Dalao of Cebuana Lhuillier, Becky Garcia and Annafaye Lee of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, Jessie Villanueva of the Games and Amusements Board, my longtime friend and kumpadre Journal editor-in-chief Gus Villanueva, Pec Manaois, Ninoy Sofranes, Alex Silva and my other colleagues in the media, Arsenic Lacson, Rotarian Rody and Zeny Sta. Rosa, Ms Chuchie Hermoso and family and human rights lawyer Pete Principe, among others.

My son Jackie, who died of cardiac arrest last Tuesday night at age 38, will be interred at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Marilao Memorial Garden after a Mass at the Marilao Parish Church.)

* * *

WITH HIS UNYIELDING COURAGE in the face of tremendous odds, Jean Henri D. Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier pawnshop fame achieved success not only in business but also in sports.

Married to the former gymnastics and taekwondo champion Bea Lucero, the 35-year-old Lhuillier is a renowned supporter of Philippine basketball and, only recently, was named team manager of both the tennis and softball teams for this year's Southeast Asian Games. His vision is to cultivate a true and long-term development program for sports, hoping that more private firms and individuals would also support sports in the country.

Success did not come easy for Lhuillier. But he beat the odds, so to speak, by learning many valuable lessons from American cycling legend Lance Armstrong, who won the Tour de France a record seven times after a bout with cancer.

What makes Armstrong so full of grit and determination to excel, Lhuillier asked? What keeps him balanced in the midst of both pain and triumph? Given such huge task of fighting the deadly disease and surviving at that, Armstrong probably dug deep into his character that was built by his early exposure to sports. Lance started his career in cycling at 13 years old and became a professional when he was 16. According to Lhuillier, success in sports starts with a goal and a plan.

What is the objective? How do we achieve it? Having a goal and plan will certainly guide the athlete to the finish line.

Involvement in sports provides numerous benefits. Apart from the positive physical effects, participation in sports promotes mental toughness and improves one's perspective in business and personal life. But one must learn how to handle opportunities correctly.

When many potential basketball players were discovered in the nationwide "Tryouts ng Bayan" project, an opportunity to provide a continuing education and training program presented itself. After touching base with the right schools, sports organizations and dedicated coaches, these talents are now just waiting for the all-important opportunity to come. Ditto with the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit and the Cebuana Lhuillier softball squad.

"I do not have to look far because I have Bea as a perfect example," said Lhuillier. "As a gymnast she gave pride to the country many times and when she shifted to taekwondo, she made every Filipino proud again by bagging a bronze in the 1992 Olympics.

This she was able to do in less than four years because of her continuous training, dedication and personal discipline.

Davao strikes again

BAGO CITY—A SPIRITED SECOND HALF ASSAULT GAVE REIGNing titlist Davao a 5-2 triumph over gritty Masbate yesterday, while Gerard Concio produced a hat-trick as shorthanded National Capital Region bounced back with a 3-0 crushing of Iligan City in the "PFF-Adidas Under-19 National Youth Championship" here.

NEGROS Occidental's Jason Panhay (third from left) attacks the Masbate defense in the 8th minute. Negros won, 3-2.

	W	L	D	GD
Group A				
Davao	2	0	0	+4
Negros	1	0	0	+1
Zamboanga	0	0	1	-1
Masbate	0	0	2	-4
Group B				
Iloilo	1	0	0	+4
NCR	1	0	1	-1
Rizal	0	0	0	0
Iligan	0	0	1	-3

GAMES TODAY
(Manuel Torres Sports Center)
7:30 a.m.— Iloilo vs. Iligan
9:30 a.m.—Masbate vs. Zamboanga
1 p.m.—NCR vs. Rizal
3 p.m.—Negros vs. Davao

The Davaoeños flaunted its deep arsenal with five different players scoring for the defending champions, who took the inside track in the race for semifinal slots with a 2-0 (6 points) slate in Group A.

Iloilo was to battle Rizal late yesterday, before host Negros Occidental takes on Zamboanga at the Manuel Torres Sports Center here.

Trailing 1-2 at the break, Davao turned up the heat in the second half and scored four goals in a span of four minutes. Striker Johnny Molina set the tone for the comeback, scoring on the 59 th minute with a brisk right-footed strike, before Renor Negro, Napoleon Nidea and Glen Balaquina made their contributions on the 68th, 71st and 84th minutes, respectively.

Davao actually grabbed the lead on the 16th minute as striker Romel Sali struck from close-range following a mad scramble at the goal mouth. But Masbate refused to waver and dominated possession the rest of the first half and even took a 2-1 lead with Gringo Bravo scoring on the 35th and teammate Renante Ursal following it up eight minutes later.

Negros posted its first win at the expense of Masbate, 3-2, late Wednesday with left winger Jason Panhay scoring two goals—all from spot kicks.

The long-haired Panhay, who resembles Brazilian star Ronaldinho, knocked in the winner—a curling left-footed free kick that sailed past the wall from 20 yards out—26 minutes from time.

Cóncio boosted NCR's hopes on the 28th minute, pouncing on a through ball from Kirk Alvarez to net the first of his three goals. NCR, which played without substitutions for the second straight game, stayed at second behind Iloilo in Group B with a 1-1 (3 points) record. Iloilo beat NCR, 4-0 Wednesday.

Sy-Mikola tussle for AF3 title live on Studio 23

THE FINAL TWO ROUNDS OF THE ASIAN Formula Three Grand Prix on Nov. 26 at the Batangas Racing Circuit will be shown live by Studio 23, giving racing enthusiasts the chance to watch young gun Tyson Sy of the Philippines drive for the overall championship against series leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia.

Sponsored by Addict Mobile, PLDT myDSL, Boysen Paints, Yokohama Tires and Lima Hotel, the first race will be aired from 10:30 a.m. to noon while the second race will be shown from 2:30 p.m. to 4 o'clock. The coverage is part of the agreement between AF3 Corp. chair Ed Pena and ABS CBN's Peter Musngi toward a possible partnership next year.

Race enthusiasts can also log on to www.asianf3.net and www.mypad.net for regular updates on the races.

17th Yakult 10 Miler lures 1,500 entries

OVER 1,500 RUNNERS HAVE signed up for the 17th Annual Yakult 10 Miler on Nov. 6 which will start and finish at the Cultural Center Complex ground in Pasay City.

Aside from the centerpiece 10-mile (16-km) event, there will also be competition along the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard in the 5K distance and the 3K for kids.

The Yakult 10 Miler, the second oldest active marathon event in the country, offers a total cash prize of P30,000 and trophies for the top five finishers in the male and female categories.

Medals and Yakult gift items are also at stake in the 3K age-group and the 5K fun run.

Michael Ong, Yakult Phils. Inc. assistant manager for sales and planning, said the overall champion and first female finisher in the 10-mile run will receive P7,000 each.

Registration is still ongoing at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P150 for the 10-mile and 5K runs, P100 for the 3K Kids run. Registration ends on Nov. 3.

Paul Harris Golf Cup at the ORCHARD / Awards Night at the CELEBRITY

Founder of Rotary, Paul Harris will once again lend his name to a noble cause and give prestige to District 3780's Golf Tournament at the prominent Palmer Course of the ORCHARD Golf and Country Club on November 10, 2005.

The 5th Paul Harris Golf Cup is a joint project of the Rotary Clubs of Metrowest Triangle (lead host), Midtown Diliman, Murphy, University District and Commonwealth intended to raise funds for the benefit of different community projects of the five (5) host clubs and the Rotary Foundation, as a whole. This is the 2nd leg of the four leg District Golf Tournament Calendared this year.

The host clubs have joined hands to ensure lots of camaraderie and keen competition at the Orchard which will culminate in the AWARDS Night at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City, the next day, November 11, 2005, Friday, where winners of the golf tournament will be awarded beautiful crystal trophies and new Paul Harris fellows of the District recognized.

Participants can look forward to lots of raffle prizes, good food and drinks with live band to entertain with special performance of Bobby Soul of THE PLATTERS.

Tee off at the Orchard is from 7am to 9am and awards night at 6pm at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City. Rotarians from other District and non-Rotarian guests are all invited to the affair.

For particulars, please call:
JOE @ 0920-9704425, JUN @ 0916-7348751 and JUN @ 0917-8430579

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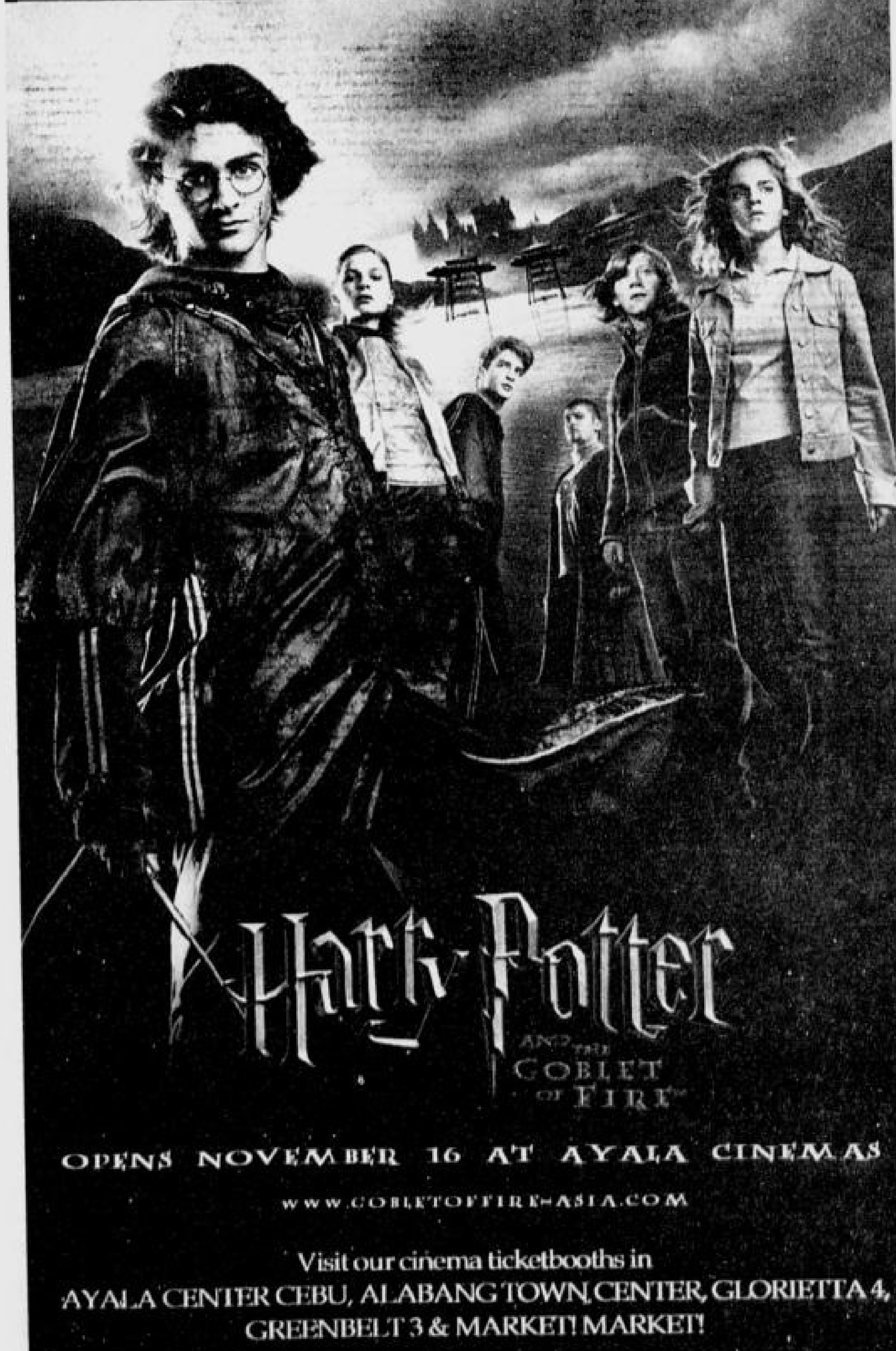

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Time	Saturday Nov. 26	Sunday Nov. 27	Monday Nov. 28	Tuesday Nov. 29	Wednesday Nov. 30
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5:30 pm	Group Exercises by Fitness First	SQUIBB Challenge	Group Exercises by Fitness First		
7:00 pm					Entertainment

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Beer Paraiso

"Anumang hilig mo, nandito sa paraiso"! This year's San Miguel Oktoberfest is a party like no other. There's overflowing San Miguel Beer, endless appetizing food choices, numerous beautiful people, adrenaline-pumping sports cars, crowd-drawing bands, and lots of exciting games and prizes, all cramped in each venue, Mondays thru Saturdays, the whole month of October.

Lucky Beers

Your beers can also win you P1,000,000 at Oktoberfest! Just buy a minimum of 5 beers and register to get a shot at testing your luck in the **SMB Lucky 7 P1M Cash Prize** Giveaway. Pick all 7 special boxes out of the 14 presented to you, and you go home P1,000,000 richer! So, who says 5 beers can't be lucky?

Best Beerman

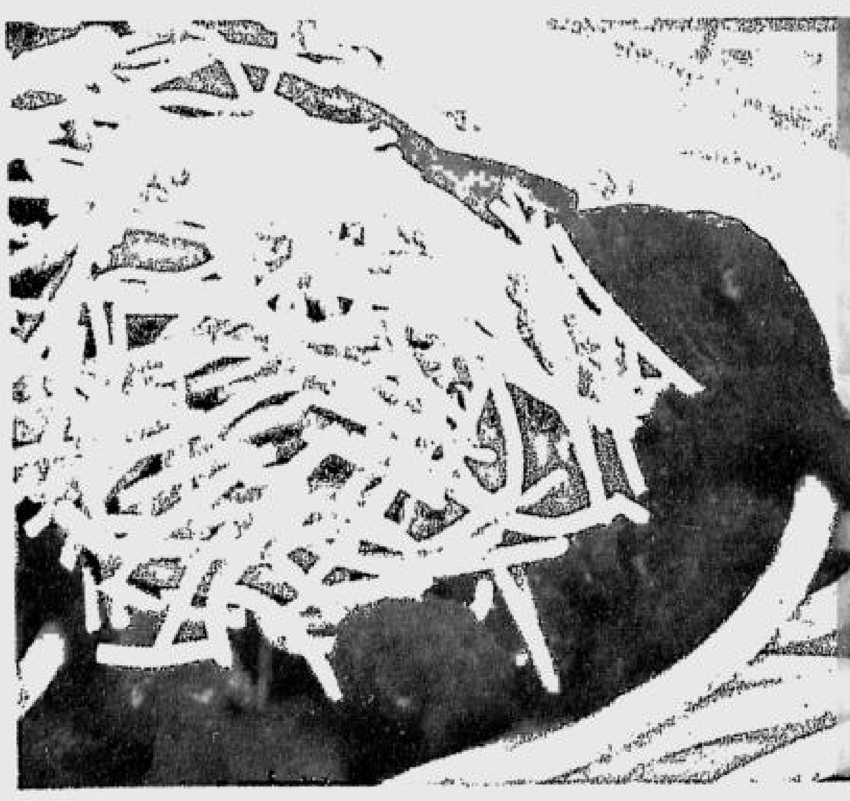
It's a test of endurance both for you and your cellphone's battery in the **SMB SMS Promo.** Every Friday and Saturday, every beer you buy at our fairs gives you a unique code to text to all our Oktoberfest Telecommunication Providers. By the end of the night, you can win as much as P2,500 cash if you down the most number of beers.

Loyal Beerdrinkers

And of course, the regulars will be well attended to. Buy a beer everyday in any of our beer fairs and fill up your **SMB Oktoberfest Loyalty Card** with stamps. P2,500 cash awaits the chosen one in each venue! So what are you waiting for? "Mag-Oktoberfest na, maghapo't magdamagan!"

Beerdrinkers unite! 'Pag hanap mo'y walang katulad, saan ka pa mapapadpad? Mag-San Miguel Oktoberfest agad! Kasiyahan dito'y walang katulad dahil kasama natin ang San Miguel Pale Pilsen! Ang Beer na Walang Katulad!

ADVT



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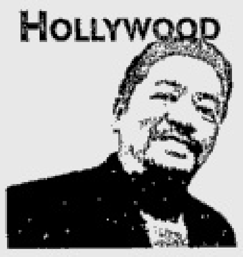
Pool parties at the Hollywood hotel and why Antonio thinks Melanie is 'misused'

LOS ANGELES—OPENER: WHEN "LA Visa Loca" was recently screened to benefit the Filipino Legacy Fund at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles), I asked several people in the audience to e-mail comments about the Robin Padilla movie. I was curious about how the predominantly young crowd would view the film that was made in the Philippines and directed by Mark Meily.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

The comments that streamed in were perceptive, as exemplified by this feedback from Billy R. Schmidt: "I was impressed with the way Meily dealt with the story's socio-economic aspects. I enjoyed it. At times, the film seems to poke fun at traditional Filipino cultural values, but ultimately it venerates them. Meily creates a world rich with anxieties and joys, and he draws both of these from a single source, the everyday life of blue-collar Filipinos. Ever present but never overstated, the daily hardships with family and finances provide the film with drama mixed with a healing dose of comedy. From Jess (Robin) to his father, Sancho (Johnny Delgado), to Mara (Rufa Mae Quinto) and even the timorous Nigel Adams, Meily takes care to explore each character's virtues, vices, hopes and disappointments. The result is a thoughtful film that entertains while quietly paying reverence to familial ties, a hallmark of Filipino culture."

***

The first sign that the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel was hot property (and no longer a bargain venue for some of our *kababayan* who just love to give awards among themselves) was when we attended the post-screening reception of HBO's "Entourage" at the hotel's poolside area many months ago.

What used to be a blah pool area distinguished only by a David Hockney mural at the pool bottom had been transformed into a softly

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CATHERINE Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas and pint-sized scene-stealer Adrian Alonso attend "The Legend of Zorro" premiere at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles.

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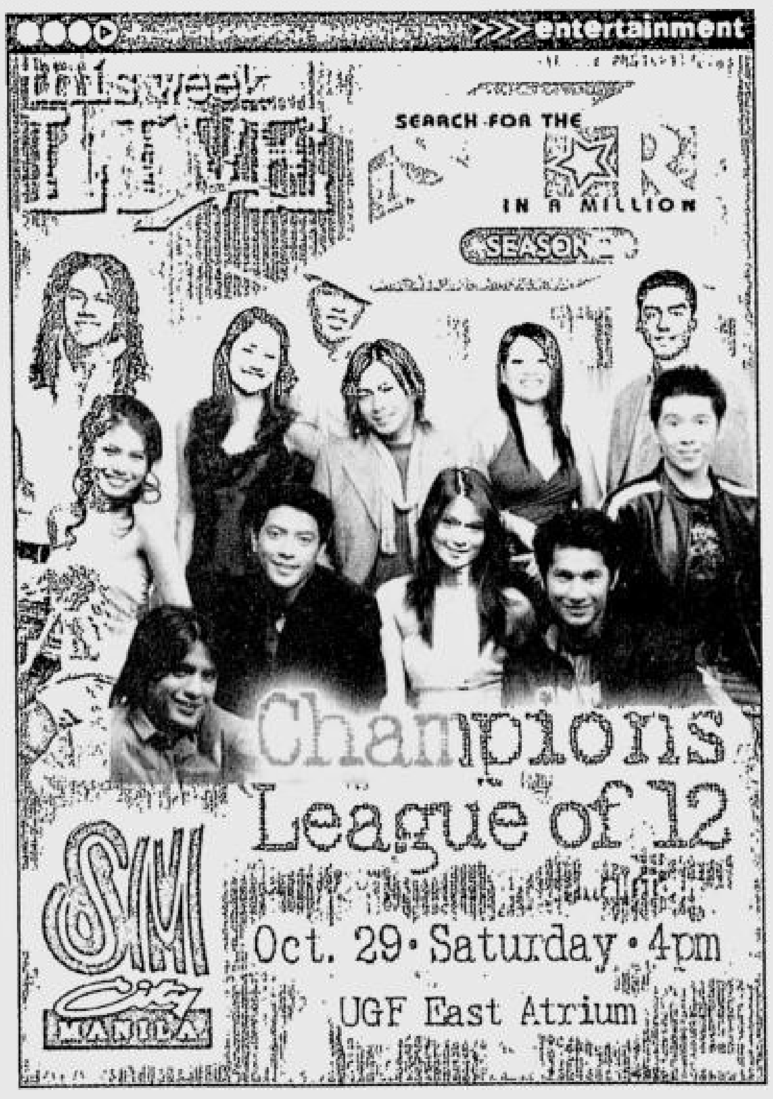

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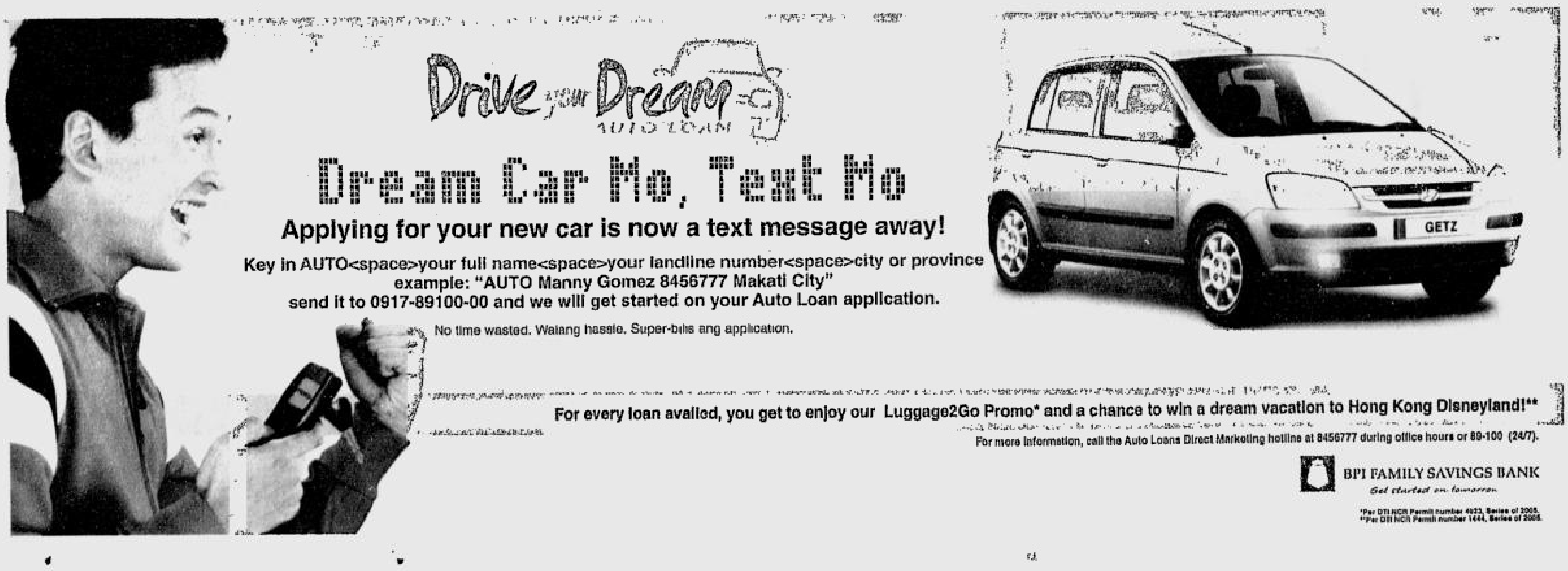

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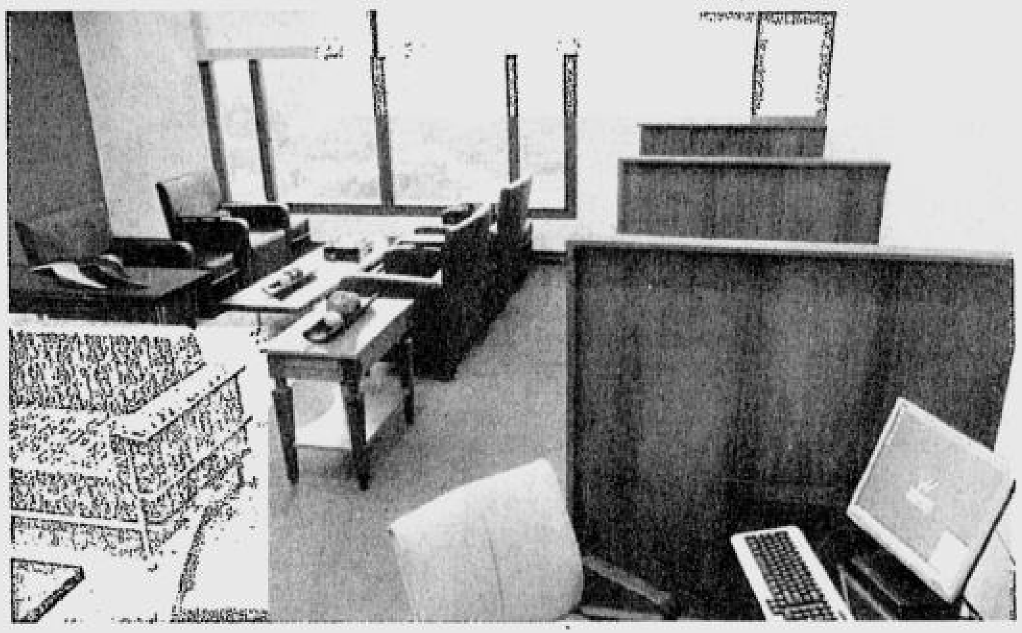
Waterfront Cebu takes comfort and service to new heights

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO recently unveiled a revamped and renewed 18th Floor, now aptly branded the Waterfront Ambassador Club. The 18th Floor flaunts 24 enhanced guest rooms and suites, and an all-new, two-floor Club Lounge exclusive for Ambassador floor guests.

"We are building on our success and lessons learned and reinventing the category," said Rexlon Gatchalian, president of Waterfront Philippines Inc, "The Waterfront Ambassador Club will offer our corporate and modern travelers an all-encompassing departure and welcome, a refreshing alternative to what's currently out there. We intend to deliver great service, design and functionality, all at an affordable room rate, with a high comfort quotient."

"Our customers are more sophisticated and they expect more than just a place to sleep. At the Waterfront Ambassador Club, we're offering something fresh, inspiring and ultimately, a venue where one is pampered to no end," says general manager Marco Protacio.

The Club Lounge is an anticipated highlight during one's stay at the 18th floor. It serves complimentary upgraded continental breakfast, all-day beverages and cocktail hours from 5 to 7 p.m. daily. Aside from the facsimile and printing services, guests also have the luxury of availing of a well-appointed boardroom in the Lounge fit for a group of up to 15 people, equipped with a built-in LCD projector, a roll-up screen, PA and recording system, a Local Area Network (LAN) and a poly communication system. The 2nd floor Lounge is a spacious, chic retreat outfitted with 3 computer stations, where one can avail of complimentary one-hour WIFI access, flat-screen television entertainment, an up-to-the-minute array of lifestyle and business magazines as well as newspapers and board games.



EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S LONG WEEKEND GETAWAY

Get away without going away. From Oct. 29 Oct. to Nov. 6, relax and enjoy the long holiday at Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, your only tropical oasis in the city. Starting from P4,500++, rest your tired minds and bodies in our refurbished Tower Superior Rooms. Be the first to experience the newly reconditioned 'rimflo, salt-chlorinated' swimming pool. And after a good night's sleep, enjoy complimentary buffet breakfast for two at the lobby coffee shop. The Edsa Shangri-La Getaway package is valid only for local residents and expatriates residing in the Philippines and under the hotel's terms and conditions. For inquiries and reservations, please call 633 8888.

Oktoberfest out in the streets

AS THE OKTOBERFEST continues to gain popularity in the country, so has Manila Pavilion Hotel's yearly version of this beer extravaganza.

On Oct. 28, Manila Pavilion Hotel gathers the greatest bands that have performed in the Oom Pa Pa street parties like Muzik Matrix, Family Cruz, Righteous Act, Music Network, Arpie & D'Multivitamins, Major Impact, and True Faith.

Take pleasure in exciting raffle prizes, lively games, a hearty fare and of course, the bounty of beer from San Miguel.

There is nothing like an Oktoberfest out in the streets. Feel its unique festiveness by being at the Oom-Pa-Pa 8: Best of the Bands at T.M. Kalaw street, Ermita, Manila on Friday, Oct. 28, starting 6 p.m.

Tickets are at P200 net. For inquiries, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel's Oktoberfest hotline 526-1212 extension 2647.

Manila Pavilion Hotel is now part of Waterfront Philippines Inc, the largest Filipino hotel chain.

'Engkanto' at the New World Renaissance Hotel

THE NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL goes Pinoy this Halloween with "Engkanto" as it showcases local mythical creatures. A special exhibit is featured at the hotel lobby from Oct. 24 to Nov. 2 featuring "Engkantos", "Tiyanak", "Kapre", "Aswang", among other scary creatures.

All families are invited to spend the Halloween Week Holiday with a tempting room package offered from Oct. 28 to Nov. 6. Enjoy plush facilities coupled with the hotel's savvy service at P3,000++ (room only) or P3,600++ (includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast for two persons at the Coffee Shop) per night. These special room rates are for a maximum of two adults and two children below the age of 12 in a Deluxe Room.

The main attraction of "Engkanto" is the "Biyaheng Balete Drive" and "Pantasyalan" children's adventure held on Oct. 31 from 3 to 6 p.m. For those checked-in on Oct. 31, two tickets will be given for these events. One ticket is for one child below 6 years old accompanied by one adult. Additional tickets are at P500 each. Furthermore, those who partake of lunch in any of the hotel restaurants on Oct. 31 with a minimum of P3,000+ bill, also gets 1 ticket to the Halloween Children's adventure.

MS INTERNATIONAL 2005 VISITS ASTORIA PLAZA

2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman pays a special surprise visit to the Avon Franchise Dealer Council Conference held at the Astoria Plaza. She is warmly welcomed by (from left) director for marketing/PR Nel Ruiz, hotel manager Ping Regalado and director for F&B George Cadhit.

RESIDENTS RELIVE THE 60S AT SOMERSET

The residents of Somerset Serviced Residences, Manila - Somerset Millennium, Somerset Olympia and Somerset Salcedo, were treated to a nostalgic trip back to the legendary decade of The Beatles mania, psychedelic swirls, groovy flicks and mini skirts. The event, named 60s @ Somerset, was one of the scheduled quarterly residents' activities that promoted interaction among its residents and to encourage them to make new friends. Staff and management of Somerset Serviced Residences, Manila were dressed in their 60s best while hip music was blasted through the Residents' Lounge. The programme highlight for the evening was a game called 'Search-for-the-60s Star Trivia' that sent residents rolling up their sleeves and searching high and low for photographs of the 60s' icon, as described by the hosts. To round up the event, the evening ended with a generous spread of food for everyone to enjoy.

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PUT ON YOUR SCARIEST COSTUMES AND BRING IN your goodie bags for an afternoon of magic and illusion as The Bellevue Hotel presents the greatest magician of the country, Lou Hidalgo. Head out to the second floor from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and dig in to a sumptuous brunch buffet at the hotel's main dining outlet, the Café D' Asie, to complete the day's festivities. Raffle prizes at stake include Rustan's and Toy Kingdom Gift Certificates and a Microsoft X Box. Entrance is free for kids taking the Halloween Brunch Buffet and P200 nett exclusive of the buffet. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

October's best at City Garden Hotel Makati

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Pool parties . . .

From page A2-1

lit oasis with cool music playing in the background. For the event, a Plexiglas bridge magically appeared over the shimmering pool. As I lounged by the pool, sipping Chardonnay, the *promdi* in me looked up. I was rewarded with the sight of tall palm trees (sooo LA), bathed in light, towering against a cloudless evening sky in May.

"Entourage" producer Mark Wahlberg was in a corner, seemingly lost in his own party but who cared? The place rocked. HBO booked the much-coveted rooms around the pool and had a party theme going on in each, based on the series' amusing take on Hollywood foibles and idiosyncrasies. One room stood out. When the missus and I entered, we saw all these men and women getting manicures and pedicures!

GRIFFITH

We wandered like kids, in and out of the rooms, wondering what each one had in store for guests. Hollywood's hottest spot has a 1960s vibe—this was why Steven Spielberg filmed "Catch Me If You Can" there.

Ogling sun-kissed beauties

Since the "Entourage" party, it has become a hip place in town. The recent summer saw the likes of Kirsten Dunst and Lindsay Lohan tanning themselves in bikinis at the pool deck as guys like Tobey "Spiderman" Maguire and director Bret Rattner ogled them.

A recent hijink involved the bar's owner Amanda Scheer Demme. The widow of director Ted Demme was brought to jail in handcuffs and charged with noise violations. Of course, she was back in action the following night.

Memorable parties in the hotel's Tropicana bar include those thrown by Teen Vogue and TV Guide.

We went back recently for the premiere party of "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang," starring Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer. The lounge chairs reserved for the guests were so close to the pool, they were in danger of falling into the water as they gingerly walked along the pool's edge.

On the way out, guests received giveaways in little white boxes. In keeping with the film's murder mystery-comedy spirit, the box contained an amputated finger that was good enough to eat—a dessert creation. Only in Hollywood!

***

Still on parties, we were invited to the lavish premiere party of "The Legend of Zorro," held at the huge parking lot behind the Orpheum Theater. The open space was covered by a massive tent and converted into a faux hacienda party in keeping with the Zorro theme. I introduced Janet to the lovable Adrian Alonso, who played the son of Antonio Banderas a.k.a. Zorro and Catherine Zeta-Jones

The gallant Adrian, 11 (he was 10 when the movie was filmed), immediately stood up and kissed Janet. I had interviewed the Mexican child actor and the rest of the cast two days earlier.

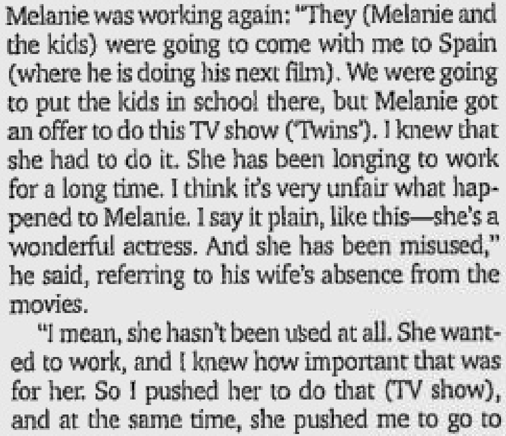
We greeted Filipino-American actor Dante Basco who was with the group of Antonio, who wore a gray pinstriped suit. His wife Melanie Griffith, who looked fetching in a scarlet gown, accompanied him.

Earlier, Antonio told us how glad he was that Melanie was working again: "They (Melanie and the kids) were going to come with me to Spain (where he is doing his next film). We were going to put the kids in school there, but Melanie got an offer to do this TV show ('Twins'). I knew that she had to do it. She has been longing to work for a long time. I think it's very unfair what happened to Melanie. I say it plain, like this—she's a wonderful actress. And she has been misused," he said, referring to his wife's absence from the movies.

"I mean, she hasn't been used at all. She wanted to work, and I knew how important that was for her. So I pushed her to do that (TV show), and at the same time, she pushed me to go to Spain and do what I had to do. So understanding each other's professional needs helps our relationship," he said.

"From the moment Melanie and I got married, I said to her, we are a married couple, but we are individualists. I don't want you to lose your individuality. I'm not going to lose mine."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



PINK POWER
Athletes and models Mikee Cojuangco and Matteo Guidicelli support the breast-cancer campaign, "Shake the World," spearheaded by Swatch, HSBC and I Can Serve, led by Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala. Mikee feels strongly about the cause because mom Tingting and sister Pin are cancer survivors. Matteo explains that he is doing it for "my grandma, mom and sister. I owe it to them to play a part in increasing awareness."

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

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7 DUBAI
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
11 TRANSPORTER 2
12 MY SASSY GIRL
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 DOOM
4 DUBAI
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 LORD OF WAR
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 DOOM
SM VALENZUELA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 LORD OF WAR
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 DOOM
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 MY SASSY GIRL
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 DARK WATER
12 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
2
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 DUBAI
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DOOM
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
10 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
LORD OF WAR
SM SUPERCENTER PASIG
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2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 ISPIRITISTA
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2 ISPIRITISTA
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4 DUBAI
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6 LORD OF WAR
7 DOOM
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY MANILA
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2 DOOM
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
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6 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY BACOOR
1 LORD OF WAR
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DUBAI
8 DOOM
SM CITY MARILAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 PERFECT CATCH
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM
SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 DUBAI

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 KING AND I (Stage Play)
2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DOOM
5 LORD OF WAR
6 DUBAI
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY ILOILO
1 ONE MISSED CALL 2
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE
SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 DUBAI
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 CROW 4
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GARY Lewis (center) and the Playboys (from left) Bryan Fox, Nick Rather, Brad Henderson and Billy Sullivan. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Gary's back with the Playboys

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

On his first visit to Manila four decades ago, he fell in love and married a Filipina

THE FIRST TIME GARY LEWIS And The Playboys performed at the Araneta Coliseum in 1966, the band was a big hit among Filipinos and vice versa.

Gary even fell in love with a Filipina. "I met her in the dressing room and when I got home to the States, we started calling each other. Nine months later we were married," Lewis reminisced, referring to former wife Jinky Suzara, with whom he has a daughter. Unfortunately, the marriage lasted only four years because Lewis said he wasn't ready to settle down and was always on the road.

Lewis, now 59, but still looking youthful for his age, is back for a series of concerts in Manila and Pampanga starting today.

Famous father

The eldest among six children of American comic artist Jerry Lewis, Gary was 18 when he decided to become a musician. "I was in college majoring in history, but when I saw the Beatles I knew I had to start a career in music," he recalled. "So I formed a band with classmates in the University of Southern California."

Gary Lewis and the Playboys recorded its first single, "This Diamond Ring," in 1964—ushering in a string of hits ("Everybody Loves A Clown," "Save Your Heart For Me," "Tina," "Sealed With A Kiss," among dozens of others) that has become the band's musical treasure trove when they're on the road.

At present, the band performs an average of 100 shows a year. "I love it. It's what I've always wanted to do," Lewis said.

EMI Philippines has just released "Complete Hits," a 31-track compilation of the band's best known materials, most of which were written by other popular songwriters, although Lewis himself is credited with co-writing some of them. "It's surprising," he said, "because I'm sort of remembered for some songs that weren't mine."

Asked why he still looks young for his age, Lewis replied: "Maybe because I never did drugs in the '60s. Even now I don't feel the urge to smoke or drink."

Who else does he idolize aside from the Beatles?

"The Rolling Stones and all of the British invasion bands. I was also influenced by the Beach Boys."

What can his music offer aside from nostalgia?

"The thing is, most of our fans now come with their children and grandchildren when they watch our gigs. I guess my music is not just confined to the older generation because I've heard some of their kids say, 'I like this kind of sound'...Well, I can't do other types of music like rap. What I offer is music that's easy to relate to, with nice little stories in them..."

Ripped shirts

Any regrets in life?

"I've made some mistakes especially in marriage." (Lewis' failed marriage with Suzara was followed by four more.)

And who thought of the name Playboys?

"Well, that's what we really were in the early days. Girls were all over us, ripping our shirts off and stuff. But of course, they don't do that anymore."

Gary Lewis and the Playboys perform today (Oct. 28) at the Araneta Coliseum and tomorrow (Oct. 29) at the Manila Hotel and Oct. 30 at the Clark Expo in Pampanga.

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PINOY'S BEST EVERYDAY!

WILSON is moving to London to audition for plays and set up New Voice Company there.

The many aspects of Monique

A woman of diverse talents and interests focuses on her first love: acting

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MONIQUE WILSON WEARS MANY hats—actress, singer, director, producer and teacher. In the latest musical from New Voice Company (NVC), Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," she's all that and more.

How's that for multi-tasking?

"Aspects," which runs Nov. 4 to Dec. 3 at the Republic of Malate, will be Monique's swan song of sorts. She will soon move to the United Kingdom, where she will make the most of a five-year work permit by auditioning for plays and setting up NVC in London.

"I'll enjoy being an actress and not fret over the responsibilities of a director and producer," she says.

Her return to London is a poignant homecoming for Monique who lived there for a spell as part of the original cast of "Miss Saigon" with Lea Salonga in 1989.

Monique sits down with INQUIRER Entertainment and reminisces on those days.

TAKE FIVE

Seems "Aspects of Love" is especially close to your heart?

For many reasons. It opened at the same time as "Miss Saigon." It brings back memories of those years I lived in London for the first time.

"Miss Saigon" was playing next door to "Aspects" then. "Saigon" was at the Drury Lane; "Aspects" at Prince Edward. That's why I got to watch it for free on my days off.

It's also special because it's my mom's favorite. I was with her the first time I watched it. This show defines various relationships: parent-and-child; husband-and-wife, lovers . . .

Both heterosexual and homosexual relationships?

It's about different kinds of love.

It has bisexual characters?

We don't find that shocking. For us in theater, it's just men and women loving each other. That's very European. In London, I go to gay bars all the time with my male gay friends and gay men flirt with me although I'm a woman!

As (co-star) Roselyn (Perez) said: This play will smash all our notions of love.

The challenge for me as a director is to foster a level of intimacy and ease among my actors. I did that by giving them exercises. We needed to be close. After all, we had to roll on the floor with each other!

Who's the better kisser—Roselyn or your leading men Leo Rialp and Jake Macapagal?

They're all good!

What do you say when you get asked about your love life?

I always say that I've been in a strong, happy, committed long-term relationship for the past seven years. But before that, I admit that I made mistakes. For that reason, this show is cathartic for us in theater. Some of us lived that kind of life; some are still living it. You can relate and find yourself in a character or two.

Your brother Jamie Wilson acted in an independent digital movie, "Big Time." Roselyn was in "Mansyon." Would you consider doing indie films?

I'll always be prepared to do a film role. If the script is good and if I like the director, why not? A lot of my theater colleagues are being cast because they're among the best.

Have you heard Lea Salonga is going to have a baby?

I know! I'm so happy! I'm so *inggit* (envious). We are growing up, I guess.

Lea said you are now turning into the "*gurangs*" (oldies)?

Yah. We really bonded again when Bibot (Repertory Philippines director Zeneida Amador) passed away. We got to spend a lot of time together—Lea, Menchu Lauchengco, Cocoy Laurel, Audie Gemora. So we made a pact never to lose touch again.

Now, you are taking over the role of teacher once played by Bibot Amador and Baby Barredo?

Correct! That's good. I think it's necessary. It's our responsibility to pass the skills and knowledge. Otherwise, it will die and end with us and that would be a shame.

No RP entry in Oscars?

By Ruben V. Nepales, *Los Angeles Correspondent* **and Bayani San Diego Jr.**

THE LIST OF FILMS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDeration in the 2005 Oscar Best Foreign Film category did not include an entry from the Philippines.

The list was announced last Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Sid Ganis.

For the first time in years, the Philippines is conspicuously not represented in the foreign language film competition. This, despite the fact that a record 58 countries from four continents, including entrants from Tajikistan, Costa Rica, Fiji and Iraq, have fielded entries.

Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) director general Leo Martinez confirmed with INQUIRER Entertainment that "the country did not receive an invitation from the Oscars this year."

He said that the FAP, which chooses the Philippine entry, "usually receives a letter of invitation from the Oscars as early as July or August."

Martinez explained: "In fact, one of our employees has already informed chair Espiridion Laxa that we haven't heard from the Oscars yet. It's not like we can write them and ask for an invitation. It doesn't work that way. All we can do is wait."

The 2005 entries include: Jean-Marc Vallée's "C.R.A.Z.Y.," Canada; Chen Kaige's "The Promise," China; Peter Ho-Sun Chan's "Perhaps Love," Hong Kong; Amol Palekar's "Paheli," India; Riri Riza's "Gie," Indonesia; Yoichi Sai's "Blood and Bones," Japan; Kwang-hyun Park's "Welcome to Dongmakgol," Korea; Eric Khoo's "Be with Me," Singapore; Montxo Armendáriz's "Obaba," Spain; Tsai Ming-liang's "The Wayward Cloud," Taiwan; Mohsen Makhmalbaf's "Sex & Philosophy," Tajikistan; Jira Maligool's "The Tin Mine," Thailand; and Nguyen Vo Nghiem Mihn's "Buffalo Boy," Vietnam.

The 78th Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements for 2005 will be held on March 5, 2006.

Another award for 'Maximo'

AFTER WINNING THE GOLDEN ZENITH award at the 29th Montreal World Film Festival last September, the film "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" bagged the Best Picture honor in the recently concluded imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Canada.

The festival celebrates the latest works by indigenous peoples in the forefront of innovation in film, video, radio, and new media.

The film's director, Auraeus Solito, was in Toronto to receive the award.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," about an adolescent gay who comes of age after he falls in love with a handsome, principled policeman, also won the Special Jury Prize in the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival last July. It is nominated in the Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor categories in the Asian Festival of First Films to be held in Singapore at the end of November.

The film is one of the first two efforts from neophyte film outfit ufo Pictures, composed of young screenwriters. Raymond Lee, the producer, has shared screenwriting credits for the award-winning films "Milan," "Anak" and "Tanging Yaman." Michiko Yamamoto, "Ang Pagdadalaga's" scriptwriter, also wrote "Magnifico" which also gathered its own set of awards from local and foreign award-giving bodies.

"Maximo" opens in theaters on Nov. 16.

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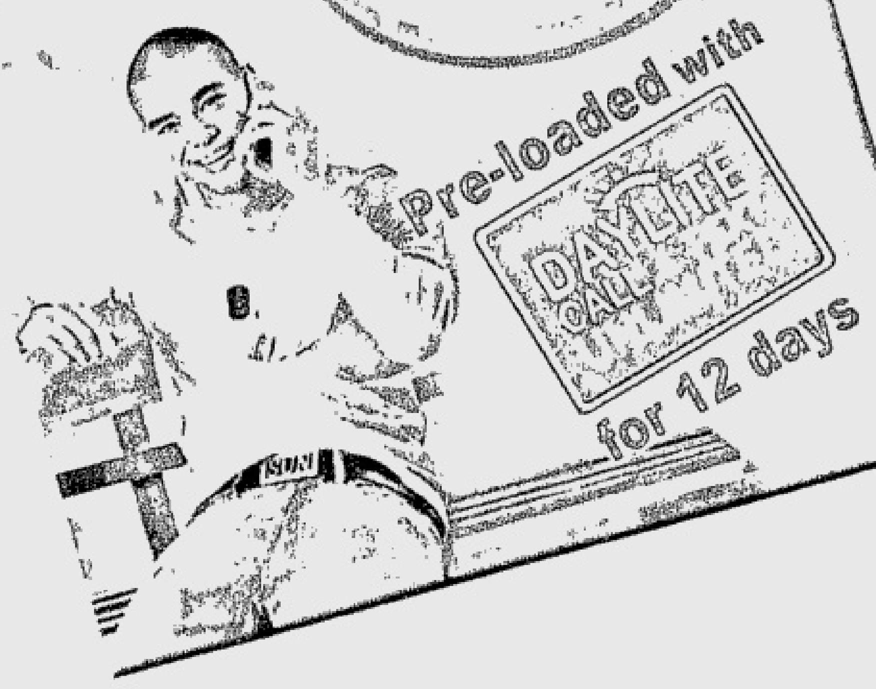

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The Speaks' music speaks

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

PINOY-PRIDE FLAG-WAVERS REJOICE: the latest celebrated Fil-Am musicians, The Speaks, are in the country for a series of TV and mall appearances and live performances. The five-man, alt-rock band, recently gained prominence after their anthemic "High" enjoyed massive airplay in certain parts of America, the UK and Asia.

They are especially proud of their Filipino roots. Yup, they do consider themselves "100 percent Filipinos at heart."

During their recent press conference at the Dusit Hotel's Ciao restaurant, the quintet proclaimed their love for the Philippines and their craft, as well as their excitement to perform tomorrow (Oct. 29) at Intramuros as part of their first overseas tour.

Guitarist Archie de la Cruz, who grew up in Manila and speaks Filipino minus the twang, is particularly thrilled that The Speaks is tinct in the music scene abroad: "I've alv wanted a Pinoy band to make it in n stream rock, 'cause, somebody's got to r sent, you know? And now, here I am' says.

Balancing act

The band's bassist, Jerry Delino, a "From our experience, the preconceptic once they find out we're Filipino, they t we don't rock, that we're gonna stan on stage and sing ballads all night. C Saturday, they'll see that's not tru all!"

The band, which has been tog since the late '90s, continues to get f able attention from fans and critics a their sound constantly being comp to big, established rock acts. While find that flattering, vocalist Raf To explains that they have their own s "We haven't changed regardless of w hot at the time," he says. "We just ourselves a straight rock band. Natu because of my vocals, people like to n comparisons to Scott Stapp of Creed Eddie Vedder from Pearl Jam. We get all the time. That's just the way singing, even before the band go

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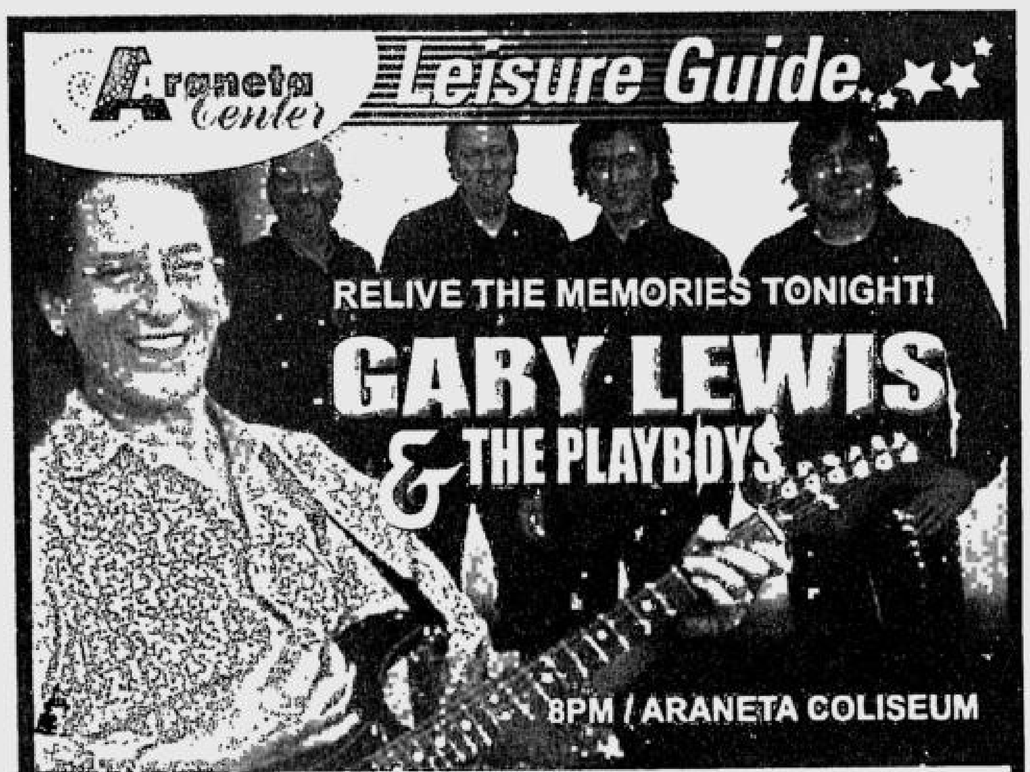

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Carlo Aquin Desiree del move to Viva

By Jocelyn Valle

THE TALENT MANAGEMENT affiliated with Viva Films is expanding, but will not resort to pirating artists from other media groups.

This is according to Veronique del Rosario-Corpus, head of Viva Artists Agency (VAA), which recently signed up talents of ABS-CBN's Star Magic, Carlo Aquino and Desiree del Valle, for a management deal.

"There's no conflict with Star Magic. Mr. M (Johnny Manahan, Star Magic head) was kind enough to issue their release papers," Veronique told INQUIRER Entertainment after the press conference for the two actors last Tuesday.

Expansion

She said the professional relationship started a couple of weeks ago when Carlo and Desiree agreed to star in the Viva-produced digital film, "Tuli," which won Best Picture and Best Director for Aureaus Solito at the recently concluded Cinemanila International Film Festival.

"We found out that Desiree's contract had already expired and Carlo was interested to do an album with his band, so we offered them both to join Viva," Veronique said, adding that her brother Vincent made the pitch for Viva Records. The siblings help their father, Viva founder and bigwig Vic del Rosario Jr., run the company.

The recruitment of Carlo and Desiree means that VAA is ready for expansion, she said. So far, it has under its wing homegrown artists like Sarah Geronimo, Anne Curtis, Mark Bautista, Rachelle Ann Go, Mikel Campos, Viva Hot Babes and Viva Hot Men.

Non-exclusive

She also made it clear that being under contract with VAA didn't mean that an artist could only do projects with Viva affiliates.

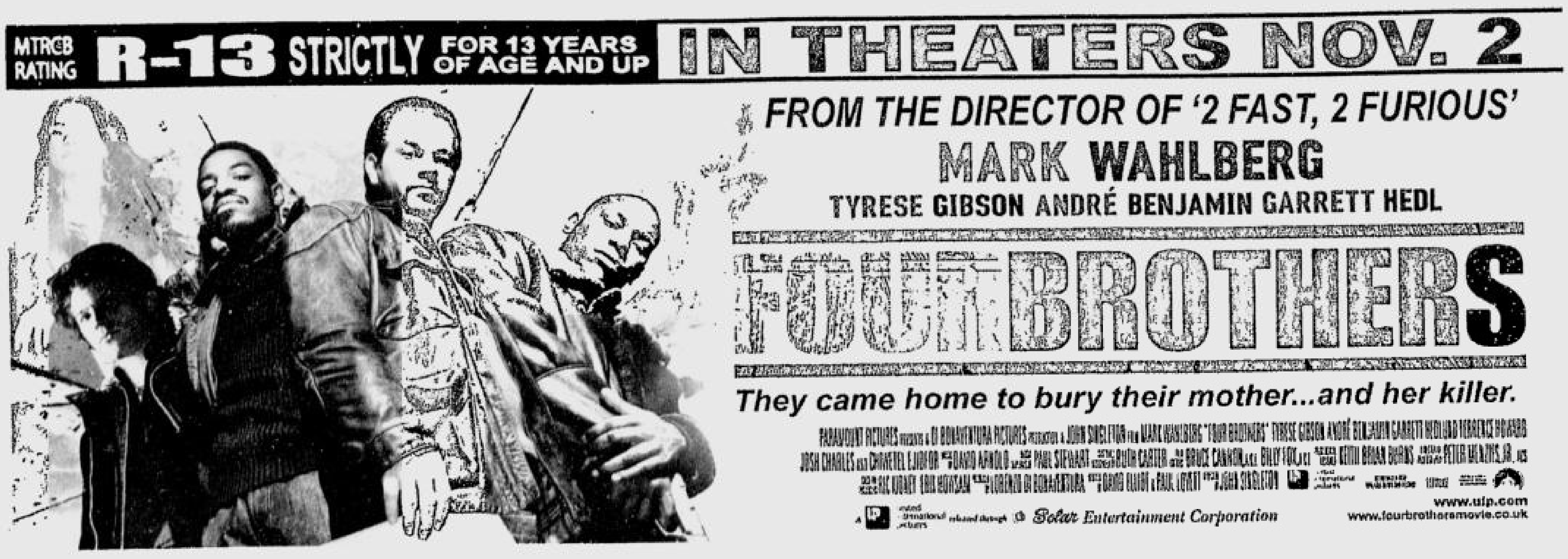
Desiree acknowledged last Tuesday saying that although her contract with Star Magic lapsed two years ago, she continued to get projects like villain roles in the defunct series, "Krystala," and the current "Kampanerang Kuba."

"That's why when I asked permission from them (Star Magic), they asked me if I really wanted to move to Viva and I answered yes. But, of course, I will never forget all the help they've given me," she said.

Desiree started her acting career with ABS-CBN seven years ago, costarring in TV shows like "Tabing-ilog," with, among others, John Lloyd Cruz, Patrick Garcia and Paolo Contis, and "Bituin," opposite Nora Aunor.

Carlo, on the other hand, just renewed his contract with Star Magic when the offer from Viva came along. "It took me a week to get out of it," he said. "My handler first talked to Miss Mariolle (Alberto, vice president for Star Magic), who was then in Hong Kong. When she returned home, I was given my release papers."

The former child star has decided to focus his artistic energies on music. He is both vocalist and rhythm guitarist of a band whose debut album will be released early next year.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THE SPEAKS: We don't want to be famous.

mous. We try to distance ourselves from that. We're The Speaks, regardless of what anyone says. We'll continue doing what we do."

Raf, a business manager by day, offers that the group devotes precious time to their music whenever they can. "It's definitely a balancing act, I have to say, because every single one of us in the band is a professional. We work during the day; we have full-time jobs. Jerry and Johnny both have families. Even though I have the mohawk and tattoos, I went to school. I got two master's degrees. You do everything you can to make your own life better," he says. "But because the band is our focus right now, we just make it happen. It's our passion right now."

Drummer Johnny Abelende agrees: "I'm an auto technician, and I have a family too. This makes things a little more difficult—to do the things I have to do to be successful in this band. It is a struggle to try to make this work, but it's worth it."

Sieg Fuster, lead guitarist, feels the same way. "You don't have much time to do anything but we love doing it. We don't mind getting tired," he says.

That unwavering perseverance paid off. According to Jerry, their 16-track album was a team effort, and their brotherly bond helped them create their own songs cohesively. He explains: "On 'Life's a Joke,' me and Raf split up the lyrical content. Raf's really good at writing melodies and the rest of the guys are really good at arranging and creating music. Everyone's involved in the last album, and that's the way it is for the next album, too."

Music lessons

Raf adds: "The creative input is overwhelming. Everyone has so much to offer, whether it's Archie's riffs, Johnny's beats or Jerry's bass lines. Everyone really contributed equally."

The Washington, DC-based group has learned a few important lessons about the music biz, and continues to do so. "You can really do it on your own," Raf says about their previous experiences with self-funding and recording.

"You don't really need to sign with a major label. Our thing is, we just want to play music for a living. We don't wanna be rich; we don't wanna be famous. We just wanna be able to support ourselves by playing music. If you can do it on your own, then by all means, do it on your own. That's the goal," he says.

"The Internet is changing everything; we're going to accept that, too. I mean, we don't mind when people share our music files. We just want the music to get out there. I think that's changing the landscape of music, and we embrace it," he adds. "We encourage people to listen to our music online and that really worked for us. To be No. 1 in Europe and not even have played there is pretty amazing. We're very thankful."

o and
Valle

CARLO AQUINO

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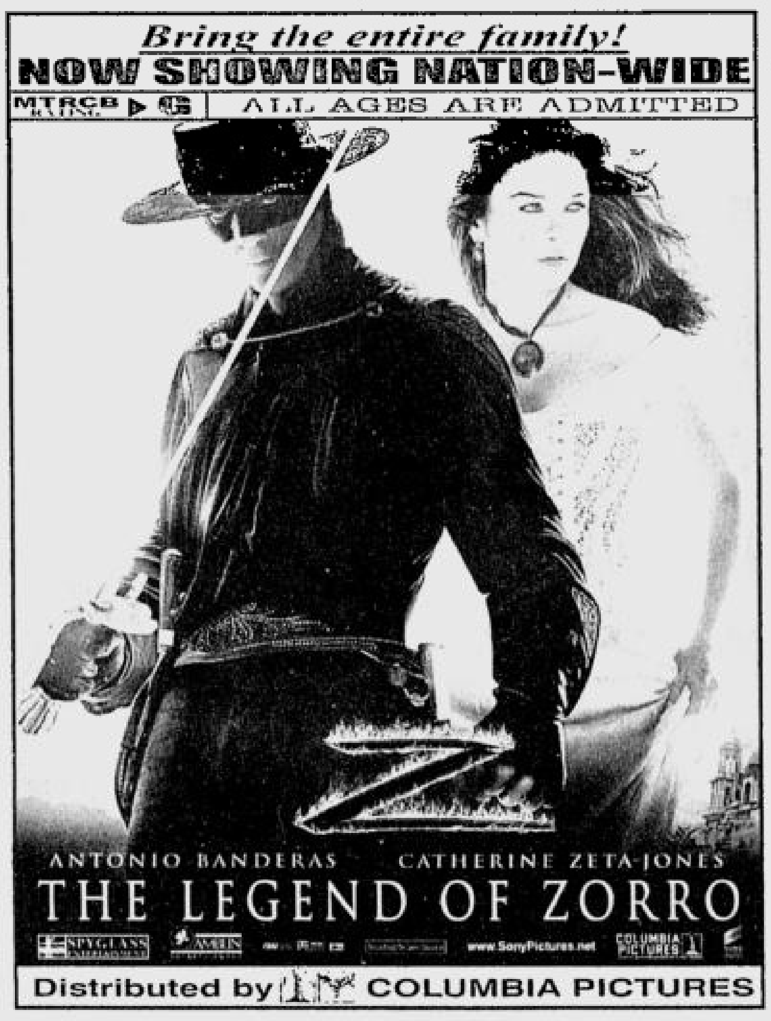
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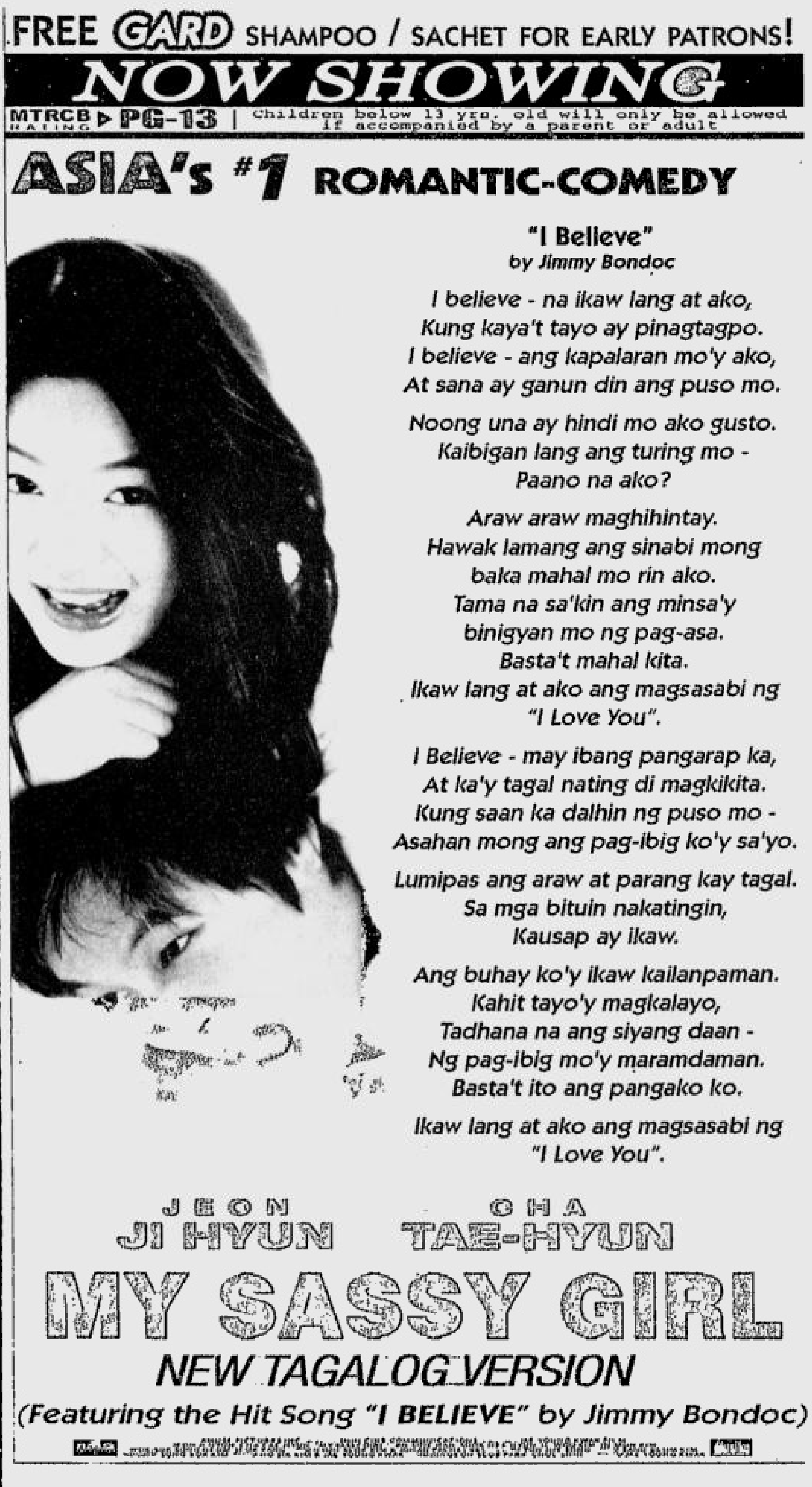
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Ang buhay ko'y ikaw kailanpaman.
Kahit tayo'y magkalayo,
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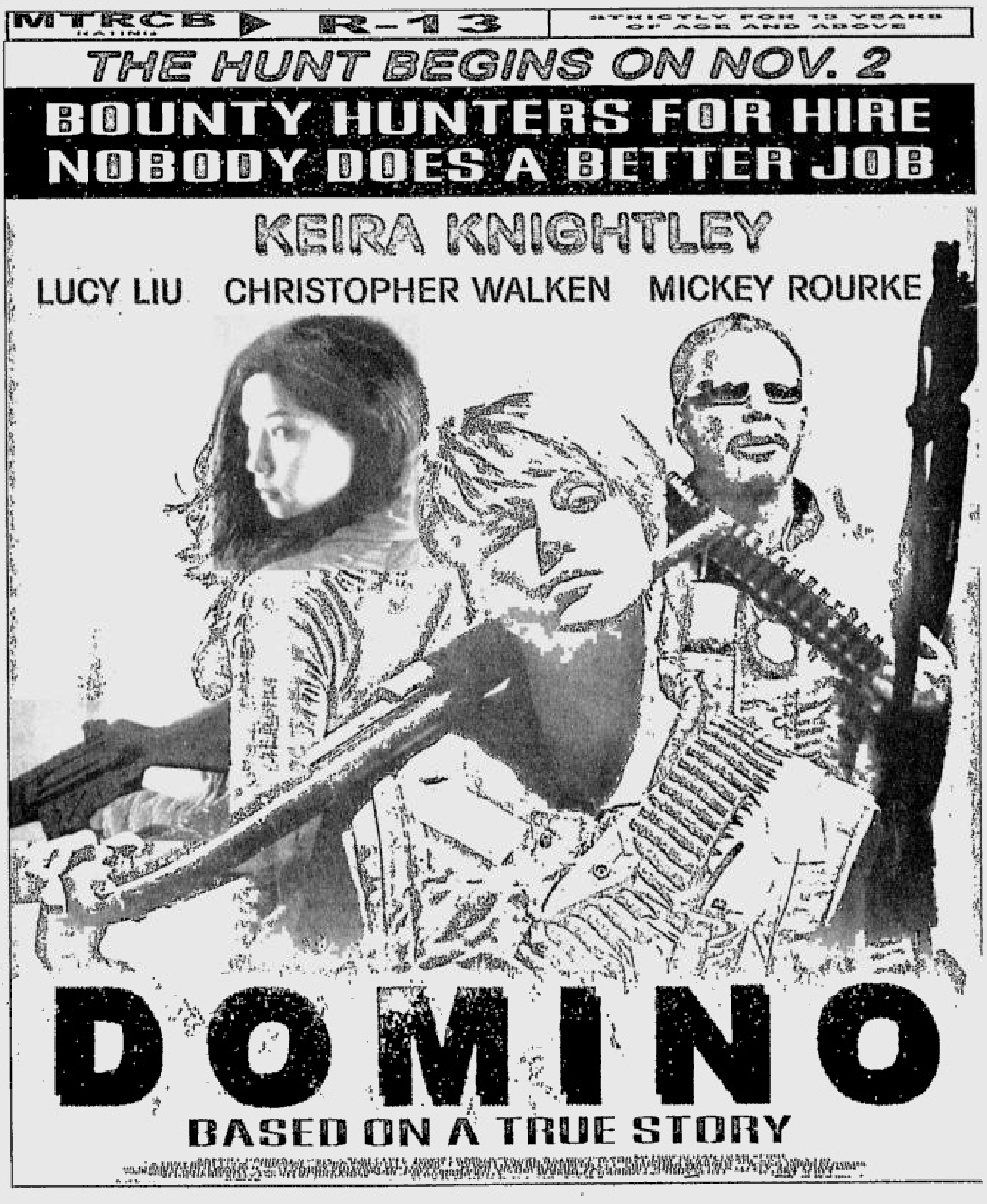
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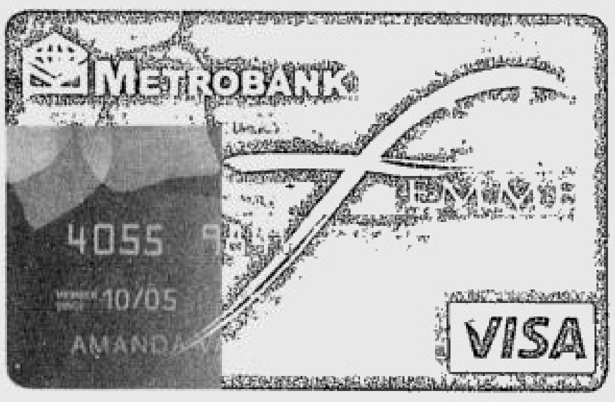
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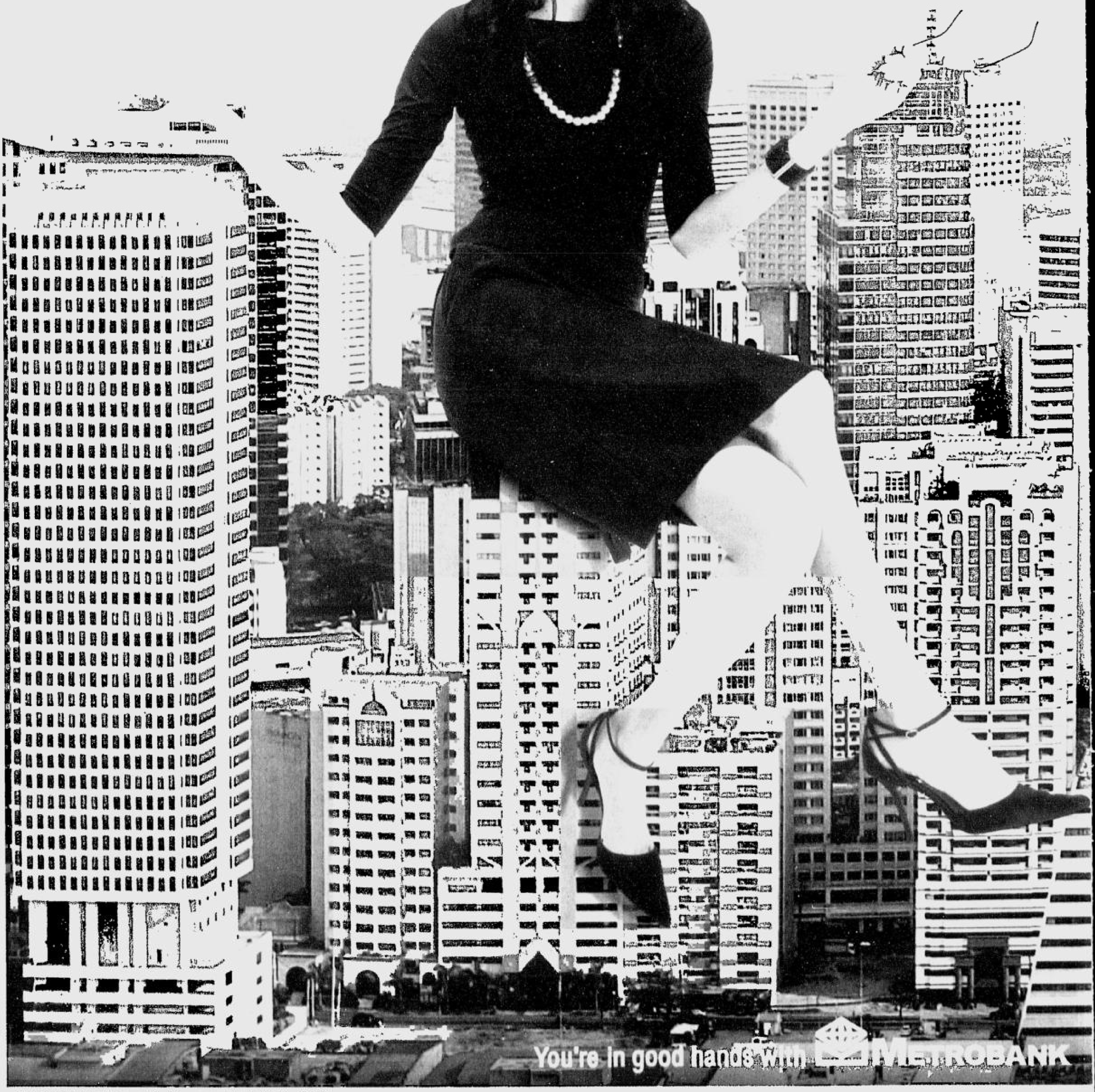
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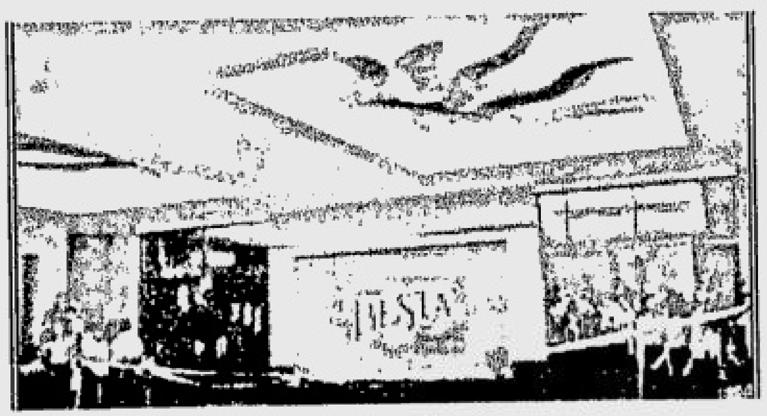

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Thunderbird's 2nd venture in SE Asia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CALIFORNIA-BASED gaming company is expected to open a casino and entertainment facility at the Poro Point Freeport Zone in San Fernando, La Union in December this year.

International Thunderbird Gaming Corp. early this year bagged a 25-year contract to lease and develop the area's 65.5-hectare tourism complex.

Juanito Antonio, president of the Poro Point Management Corp., said Thunderbird Gaming Corp. was just awaiting its license from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and it was ready to open the casino at the freeport on Dec. 15.

This will be the US firm's second gaming facility in the country. Last April 11, Thunderbird Gaming opened its first casino in Southeast Asia in Binangonan, Rizal called Fiesta Casino Hotel.

"The Pagcor board has already approved the issuance of the license (for the Poro Point casino)," Antonio said. "Thunderbird Gaming is quite ready to start operations."

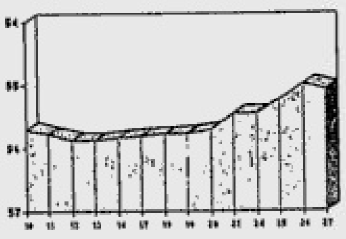
Antonio added that the company was expected to start in early 2006 the construction of a resort hotel and a number of villas to accommodate guests.

"Thunderbird Gaming is also putting up about P65 million to augment PPMC's program of ex-

US FIRM/ B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.080 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2005

¥ 115.41 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2005

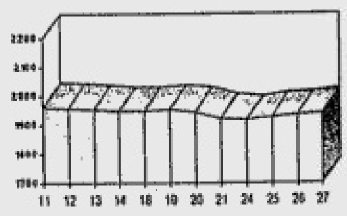
GOLD: $473.20-473.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B11)

Stocks up 0.36%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.36 percent higher as investors chased stocks likely to report strong results for the three months to September, dealers said.

The peso's rally to four-month highs against the dollar also boosted investor sentiment, they added.

The composite index rose 6.91 points to 1,941.46 after trading between 1,934.07 and 1.943.57. Turnover was 266.02 million shares worth P599.7 million.

The broader all-shares index advanced 3.79 points to 1,180.83.

Despite the headline index gains, losers led gainers 36 to 34 with 44 stocks unchanged.

"The market is consolidating with a positive bias," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development.

"The gains have been supported by the peso's strong performance, plus some counters are now at their oversold levels," he added.

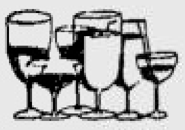
Dealers were split on whether the three-day rise would continue Friday ahead of the long weekend.

Religious holidays on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 as well as Nov. 4 mean there are only two trading days next week.

Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com

STOCKS/ B8

WHAT'S INSIDE

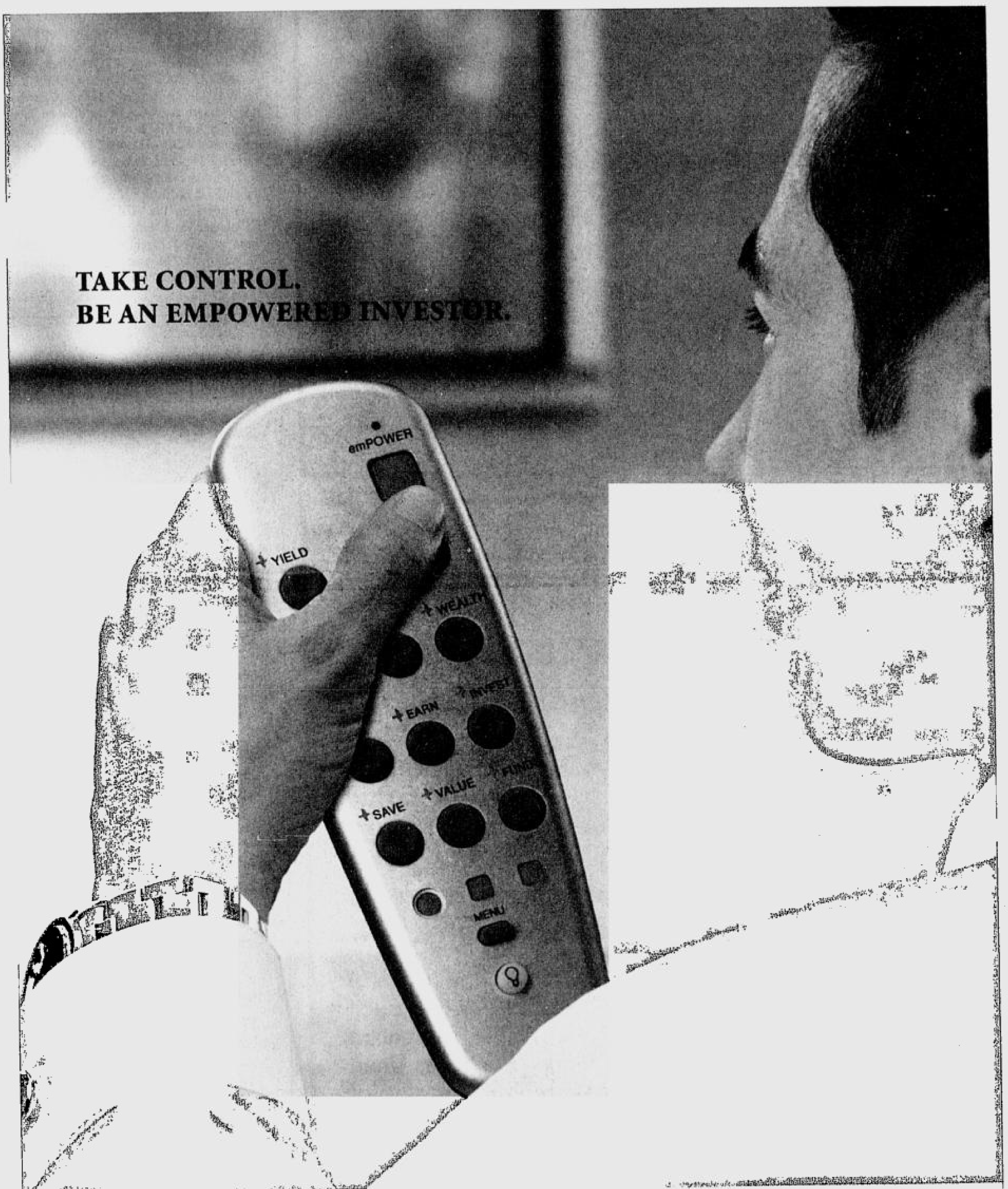


US tightens entry rules even more /B5

Naia 3 opening pushed back yet again /B4

Cable TV piracy deprives gov't P2.3B in revenue /B6

DOF takes prorated approach in corporate tax hike /B14



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

UITF	Available through American Express Bank	Earnings per Annum*
Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund	Dollar Wealth Plus Account	10.12%
Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund	Peso Cash Plus Account	8.29%

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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Tel. No. 232-1000

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53 Connecticut Street, San Juan
Tel. No. 722-9888

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R&D TecDesign, Inc.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AGAINST SOFTWARE PIRACY

R & D TecDesign, Inc. joins the Business Software Alliance in expressing support to the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team in its drive to combat software piracy in the country.

R & D TecDesign, Inc. fully believes in and supports the cause of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team. We recognize that the use of illegal software is a deterrent to the growth of the Information and Communications Technology industry and has been adversely affecting the Philippine economy. The use of unlicensed software must be put to a stop.

The use of unlicensed software is a criminal offense under the Intellectual Property Code and the Optical Media Act. Software copyright infringement is punishable by imprisonment terms from one to nine years and a fine from ₱50,000 to ₱1.5 million.

We pledge to use legal and licensed software and we urge all companies to do the same.

For inquiries on software licensing and to report companies using unlicensed software, call the BSA anti-piracy hotline at **819-5897** (Metro Manila) or **1-800-1-888-8787** (outside Metro Manila) or log on to **www.bsa.org/philippines.**

PGA Cars, Inc.

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BSA investigating 500 tips received since launch of anti-piracy campaign

Reported industries include call centers, banking, insurance, manufacturing, retail, architectural, engineering, creative and printing

Manila, Philippines – The anti-piracy hotline of the Business Software Alliance (BSA) has received more than 500 calls since the launch of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, most of which are reports on companies using unlicensed software. Numerous individuals have been calling the BSA hotline to report companies that use software without proper licenses. The companies reported belong to a broad range of industries including call centers, banking, insurance, manufacturing, retail, architectural, engineering, creative and printing. The reported companies are now being evaluated.

Just recently, agents of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division conducted simultaneous raids against several engineering and construction companies for allegedly using unlicensed business software programs in their business.

The NBI raided NFF Industrial Corporation in Mandaluyong City for allegedly using unlicensed AutoCAD 2005;. Pathland Development Corporation in Pasig City for unlicensed AutoCAD 2000 and AutoDesk Architectural Desktop; C.M. Pancho Construction, Inc. in Quezon City for unlicensed AutoCAD Release 14, AutoCAD 2000 and AutoCAD 2002; Federal Land, Inc. in Makati City for unlicensed AutoCAD; and Step One Property Builders, Inc. in Makati City for unlicensed AutoCAD 2000. The NBI seized a total of 30 personal computers and servers and software programs estimated to be worth P7.5 million.

Reports on the said companies using unlicensed Autodesk software programs were received through the anti-piracy hotline of the Business Software Alliance (BSA). The NBI raided these companies after verifying the reports and securing search warrants from Executive Judge Antonio M. Eugenio, Jr. of the Manila RTC Branch 24.

"The BSA lauds the NBI for its successful enforcement of the copyright law. We strongly advocate that companies use only properly licensed software in order to avoid the legal consequences that may follow. We are talking here about companies who are profiting directly in their business through the use of illegal business software," said Tarun Sawney, BSA Director of Anti-Piracy, Asia.

Under the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, violators face imprisonment of up to nine years and a fine of up to P1.5 million.

Optical Media Board Chairman Edu Manzano, who is the spokesperson of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, reminded companies to make sure all their software programs have proper licenses. "Companies should monitor their software licenses to avoid disruption of business and the embarrassment of raids," said Manzano.

"Piracy is detrimental to the national economy. It deprives our workforce of high paying job opportunities, prevents us from competing globally and hampers the growth of creative industries. Everyone should do his share to stamp out piracy," he added.

Individuals who know of companies using unlicensed software may call the BSA hotline at 819-5897 (Metro Manila) or the toll-free 1-800-1-888-8787 (outside Metro Manila). A reward of up to P1 million is available for anyone with information leading to a successful enforcement action against any company using illegal software.

*ADVT.

LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKE

Please Stop software Piracy Now

We, Eurocom Trading Company, Inc. are engaged in the distribution and sale of computers in Quezon City. For many years we have run a successful business providing information technology related products and services. Unfortunately, to increase our profits, we started selling computers installed with pirated or illegal software to our customers. No licenses, manuals or original CD-ROMs were provided to the customer. As a result of these activities, we were raided by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for infringement of copyright.

We Apologize to All Honest Dealers for Our Actions

The success of the Information Technology industry in the Philippines is dependent on strong respect for intellectual property rights and laws. Our actions only harmed the very industry we are trying to promote. Hence, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage all dealers to comply with copyright laws. We support all enforcement actions by the government to curb piracy as this will encourage the growth of honest computer dealers, system builders and resellers in the Philippines.

Signed by Authorized Representatives

Edwin So

Margaret So

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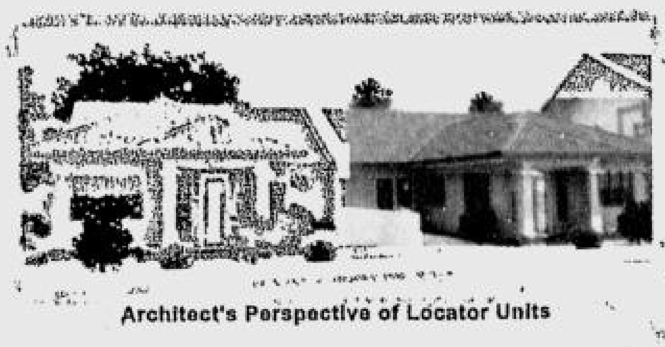

Architect's Perspective of Locator Units

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Naia 3 opening pushed back yet again

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NINOY Aquino International Airport Terminal 3

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communications yesterday said that the government would not be able to open the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 this year.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said it would be impossible to open the new airport by December given that peak season for travel had started and none of the airlines would consider transferring their operations at this time.

More importantly, the Naia 3 is not ready for operations, according to the transport chief.

"A December opening is already out of the question," Mendoza said.

According to the transport chief, once all outstanding issues have been addressed "full operations (may be expected) by the first quarter."

Mendoza said that Naia 3's opening depended on "a lot of factors," he said.

The Arroyo administration originally planned to open Naia 3 by June 21, 2005 after it seized and took over the facility in December 2004.

The opening was moved to December when the government could not close a deal with Takenaka Corp., after supposedly reaching an agreement in principle last June.

The problem escalated when Emilio Yap's Manila Hotel offered in August to buy Fraport's 60 percent in Philippine International Air Terminal Co.

Immediately after, Lucio Tan's Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. claimed it now has the first crack in operating Naia 3, being the original proponent of the airport project in 1996. AEDC had asked the Supreme Court to compel the government to honor a 1996 agreement.

Mendoza said the claims being made by AEDC and Manila Hotel were actually helping the government fast-track the opening of the airport.

The government will operate the airport terminal initially, Mendoza said.

"What happens next is something that the court will have to decide," he added.

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Tel: 812 8861
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Seminar Schedule:
9:30 am to 11:00 am - Canadian Immigration overview
11:30 am to 1:00 pm - New Zealand Immigration overview
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Gov't urged to clarify VAT cap provision

By Michelle V. Remo

CHINESE BUSINESSMEN ARE URGING government to clarify the 70-percent cap on input VAT credits, saying the widespread confusion over the ruling could hinder the smooth implementation of the VAT Reform Law on Nov. 1.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII), said there had been various interpretations of the 70-percent VAT cap among members of the business group.

"There are a lot of speculations on the ruling," Chua yesterday said at the sidelines of the government's VAT road show in Binondo, Manila. "Besides, people want to know how this (cap) will affect the final price of energy and fuel."

FFCCCII said misinformation about the VAT Law, if not addressed promptly, could create problems both for businesses and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The VAT Law, considered to be the Arroyo administration's key measure to combat the lingering fiscal problem, will expand the coverage of VAT to include oil and electricity, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent beginning January 2006.

The law contains a provision that puts a cap on the amount of input VAT credits businesses can claim. The cap was set at 70 percent of output VAT.

According to the Department of Finance, the 70 percent VAT cap meant that the amount of input VAT credits that a taxpayer can claim for a given period would have a ceiling equivalent to 70 percent of its output VAT. The input VAT credits exceeding 70 percent of output VAT may be claimed in the next tax period.

This would ensure that the government would collect an amount of VAT equivalent based on a net VAT rate of 3 percent.

But when businessmen started complaining that the 70-percent cap was unjust, officials of the DOF agreed that the cap would only apply to taxpayers whose input VAT credits are higher than their output VAT. This means that a VAT-covered taxpayer whose input VAT credits are equal to or less than their output VAT can claim their credits in full.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2005

A S S E T S		AMOUNT
Cash and Cash Items	P	420,557
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		973,735
Due from Other Banks		932,560
Investments in bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		54,773,924
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,691,028
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)		2,158,237
Others		650,478
TOTAL ASSETS	P	73,600,519
L I A B I L I T I E S		
Savings Deposits		1,250,128
Time Deposits		188,206
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		601,647
Other Liabilities		3,939,868
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	5,979,849
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	50,000,000
Surplus		17,620,670
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	67,620,670
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	73,600,519

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Benjamin P. Castillo
Chairman

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.
Director

Alfredo M. Yao
Director

PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Alex A. Pimentel
President

Other Information:		
1. Deposits of:		
a. Governments	P	-
b. Banks		1,042,084
c. Trust Department		-
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance / Actual Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises / 38.66%	2 % for Medium Enterprises / 0.00%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		-
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		0.00%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		-
6. General provision for loan losses		-
7. Specific provision for loan losses		100,846
8. Return on equity (ROE)		1.76%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		-
10 Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		0.00%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances		-
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total portfolio		0.00%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

I / WE, Alex A. Pimentel and Benjamin P. Castillo of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) ALEX A. PIMENTEL
President

(Sgd) BENJAMIN P. CASTILLO
Chairman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25th day of October, 2005, affiant exhibiting to me his/her/their Community Tax No.13609151 issued at Cebu on January 19, 2005 and Community Tax No 09155900 issued at Manila on January 03, 2005.

Doc. No. 484
Page No. 97
Book No. IV
Series of 2005

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US tightens entry rules even more

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

VISITING THE UNITED STATES is beginning to look more and more like visiting a prison camp.

Beginning next month, Northwest and other US airlines will be asking passengers with non-US passports to provide during ticketing their address in the United States and their home address, as well.

Exempted from the address disclosure requirements are passengers transiting in the United States for less than eight hours.

Earlier this month, Northwest also begun collecting and transmitting "additional information that is digitally available from a passport or travel document," in addition to the advanced passenger information it has already been forwarding ahead to the US Customs and Border Protection for US-bound flights since 1998.

Besides being fingerprinted and photographed upon arrival, departing visitors are now also being subjected to the same procedure before boarding.

Still, even US citizens are not exempt from the increased security measures.

US TIGHTENS/ B7

Zeus Holdings, Inc.

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of *Zeus Holdings, Inc.* will be held on 14 November 2005 at 4:00 p.m. at the 21/F Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

(Sgd.) Atty. Daisy L. Parker
Corporate Secretary

Prime Orion Philippines, Inc.

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of *Prime Orion Philippines, Inc.* will be held on 14 November 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the 21/F Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

(Sgd.) Atty. Daisy L. Parker
Corporate Secretary

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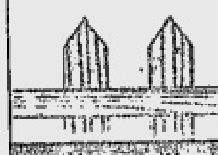

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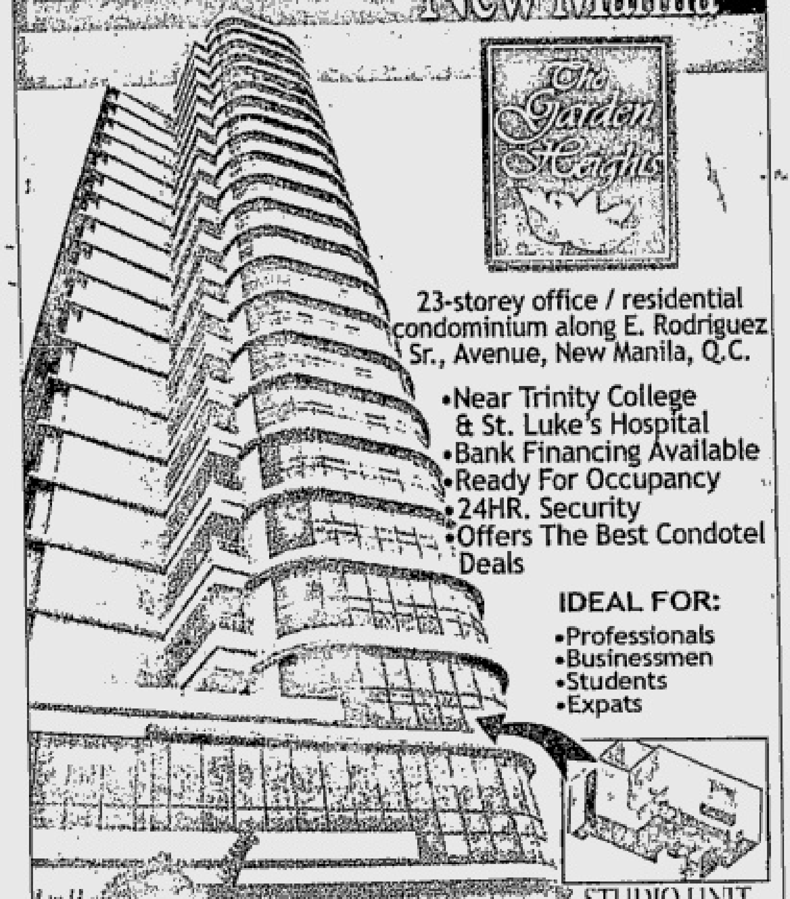

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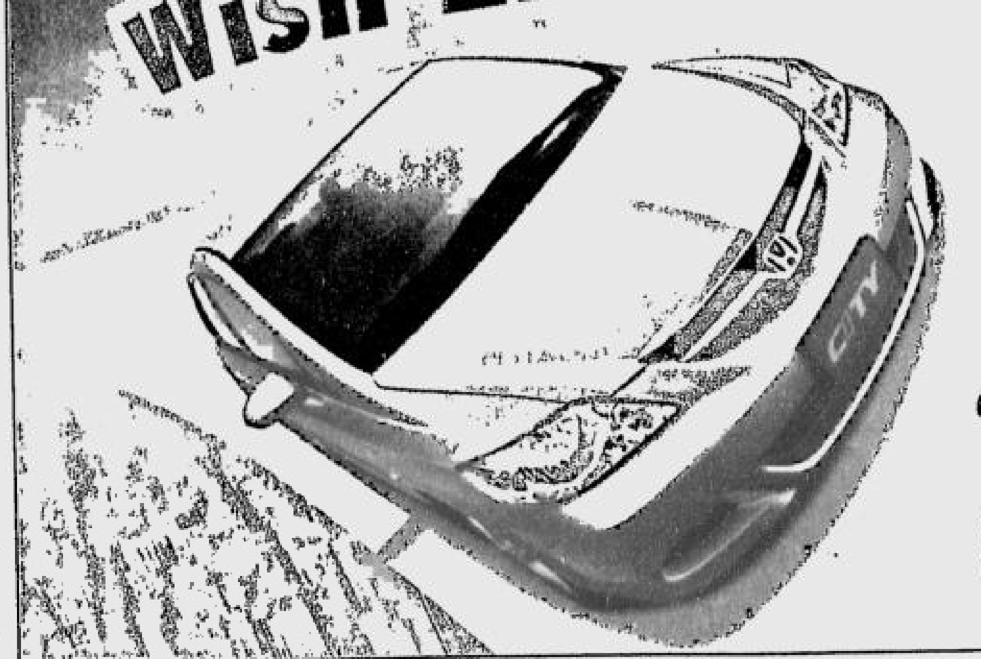
A few 2-BR units with financing still available

HONDA

Wish List Twist



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Cable TV piracy deprives gov't ₱2.3B in revenue

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF CABLE television piracy in the Philippines deprived the government about P2.3 billion in tax revenue this year, according to a Hong Kong-based group.

The Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia or Casbaa said cable TV content providers in Asia, for their part, lost about P4.5 billion (or $82 million) in potential earnings due to the piracy problem in the Philippines.

The country now ranks third in Asia in terms of the extent of pay-TV theft.

A study done by CLSA Asia-Pacific Market for Casbaa showed that the industry's losses in the Philippines this year jumped by 16.7 percent to $81.7 million from $70 million in 2004, as the number of illegal connections and rogue operators continued to rise.

"Growth of the legitimate industry has been damaged by the unchecked increases in the number of cable operators who steal programs and resell them to unsuspecting players," said the Hong Kong-based group in a statement.

"It is estimated that there are now almost the same number of illegal connections as legitimate paid subscriptions in the country," it added.

Casbaa represents 110 cable TV programmers and content suppliers in Asia. It had been fighting cable TV piracy in the region, initiating raids of some pay TV operators in the Philippines.

The group has bigger problems in India and in Thailand. Losses due to piracy in India went up by 19 percent to $632 million and higher by 15 percent in Thailand at $160 million this year.

All over Asia, programmers under Casbaa are expected to lose $1.06 billion this year, up 11 percent from $952 million a year ago.

Of that, Casbaa said Asian governments were being deprived of $155 million in taxes, fees and other revenues. In the Philippines, the amount went up by 10 percent from $38 million in 2004.

The losses are mostly incurred by program providers that include CNN, AXN, Cartoon Network, Discovery Channel, Disney Channel, ESPN, Star Sports, Star Movies, Star World, HBO, MTV and National Geographic Channel.

So far, there are 910,000 legitimate pay TV subscribers in the Philippines, up from 880,000 in 2004. Those that were illegally connected were estimated at 835,000, up from 650,000 last year, according to Casbaa.

Of the illegitimate subscribers in the country, Casbaa said 69 percent were illegal connections, 21 percent were customers of pirate operators and 10 percent were due from under declarations of legitimate players.

From $13.2 million in 2004, the losses rose to $17.4 million due to rogue players while under-declared subscribers also contributed $7.92 million this year from $3.94 million in 2004.

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RP to host world meeting of financial executives

By Daxim L. Lucas

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES FROM AROUND the world will meet in the Philippines in early December to address threats and opportunities facing the global financial industry.

In a press briefing yesterday, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) president Melito S. Salazar Jr. said up to 500 delegates representing companies from Asia-Pacific, Europe, North and South America will converge in Manila on Dec. 4 to 7 for the 2005 World Congress of Financial Executives.

"What we will do is to try to get our members to exchange ideas in developing the financial system," he said.

According to World Congress chair Edgardo L. Limon, the meeting's theme is "timely, as the world is undergoing a lot of changes."

"Unexpected events like terrorism, natural calamities, and even the surge in oil prices have vastly altered financial environments," he said. "It would be useful for all these people involved with finance to refresh their views on what is going on in the world."

Speakers for the congress were selected in coordination with the International Association of Financial Executives Inc. (IAFEI) which maintains a roster of financial experts with distinguished careers and track records in government and business.

The highlight of the event will be a talk by former President Fidel V. Ramos who will discuss the economic, social and political challenges facing Asia in the future, and achieving sustainable development in the region.

Ramos is the current chair of the Boao Forum for Asia—a Beijing-based talk shop for public and private sector cooperation for the region.

Bank of the Philippine Islands president and CEO Aurelio Montinola III will speak about how BPI's commitment to good corporate governance helped it through turbulent times.

The governor of the Bank of Thailand, Pridiyathorn Devakula, will give a perspective of regional financial markets and will also discuss prospects of regional financial and economic integration. President Arroyo is expected to grace the plenary session's opening.

DTI intensifies price monitoring to protect consumers against unscrupulous traders

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

Price Monitoring Report
NCR Wetmarkets, 24 October 2005
Processed/Manufactured Commodities

COMMODITY	PREVAILING PRICE*	LOWEST PRICE	MONITORED WET MARKETS SELLING AT THE LOWEST PRICE
CANNED FISH, 155 g			
5 5 5	10.00	9.25	Obrero Market, Manila Bicutan Market, Parañaque
Ligo	10.50	9.25	Paco Public Market, Manila
Master	10.50	9.50	Kamuning Market, Quezon City
Mega	10.50	9.00	Mutya ng Pasig Market
PROCESSED AND CANNED PORK			
Meat Loaf			
Philips (200 g)	20.00	18.00	Arayat Market, Quezon City Libertad Public Market, Pasay
Argentina (170 g)	14.50	12.00	Commonwealth, Quezon City
Corned Beef			
Argentina (175 g)	25.00	23.45	Taguig Public Market, Taguig
INSTANT NOODLES (Chicken Flavor)			
Lucky Me (55 g)	5.00	4.70	Kyowa Market, Las Piñas New Las Piñas Public , Las Piñas
Maggi (55 g)	5.50	5.00	Paco Public Market, Manila
Payless (55 g)	4.50	4.25	Taguig Public Market, Taguig New Las Piñas Public , Las Piñas
PROCESSED MILK			
Condensed Filled			
Alaska (300 ml)	36.00	31.60	Marulas Public Market, Valenzuela
Condensed Creamer			
Carnation (301 ml)	33.00	30.00	Farmers Market, Cubao
Evaporated Filled			
Alaska (370 ml)	27.00	25.50	Paco Public Market, Manila Libertad Public Market, Pasay
Evaporated Creamer			
Carnation (378 ml)	27.00	25.00	Paco Public Market, Manila
Powdered Filled			
Alaska (180 g)	39.00	36.00	Commonwealth, Quezon City
Bear Brand (180 g)	39.00	35.00	Quinta Market, Manila
COFFEE (Refill)			
Nescafe (25 g)	17.00	14.50	Paco Public Market, Manila
(50 g)	32.00	27.00	Paco Public Market, Manila Marikina Public Market, Marikina
Great Taste - Prem Blend (25 g)	15.00	12.25	Libertad Public Market, Pasay
(50 g)	25.00	22.50	Libertad Public Market, Pasay
TOILET SOAP (Regular)			
Palmolive (100 g)	16.00	14.00	Paco Public Market, Manila
Tender Care (100 g)	16.00	13.75	New Las Piñas Public Market
Safeguard (90 g)	17.00	15.00	Marikina Public Market, Marikina
DETERGENT BAR, 440 g			
Mr Clean	15.00	14.00	Maypajo Market, Caloocan
Surf	16.00	14.50	Paco Public Market
Tide	20.00	18.00	Southgold Market, Muntinlupa
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES*			
Chicken, 1 kg	100.00	85.00	Cloverleaf Market, Quezon City Malabon Market
Pork liempo, 1 kg	140.00	130.00	Cloverleaf Market, Quezon City Malabon Market Nepa-Q Mart, Quezon City Libertad Public Market, Pasay Mutya ng Pasig Market

*The price seen in most wet markets.
**Prices of agricultural commodities are monitored by the Department of Agriculture.

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September 12, 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 22, s-2005

TO : Organized Groups and All Concerned

SUBJECT : Group Premium for Enrollment and Premium Remittance Through PhilHealth's Organized Groups Partners

Pursuant to PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 719, s-2004, the second model of the partnership of PhilHealth with Organized Groups (OGs) in the informal sector is hereby implemented for pilot test for a minimum of one (1) year and may be extended by the Corporation if deemed necessary. The model shall be known as the *"Kalusugan ay Sigurado at Abot Kaya sa PhilHealth Insurance"* (KASAPI) Program. This will be piloted in the following regions:

Regions

Luzon	I, III and IV-A
Visayas	VIII, X and XI
Mindanao	CARAGA

The KASAPI Program aims to:

- boost enrollment and sustain membership in the informal sector;
- implement an alternative payment scheme to encourage OGs to partner with PhilHealth;
- limit adverse selection;
- facilitate shift of some Sponsored Program members to paying informal sector members; and
- strengthen solidarity and risk-sharing.

In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, the organized groups shall be PhilHealth's partner in marketing social health insurance to the informal sector, membership registration, collection and monitoring and evaluation.

The advantages of the PhilHealth's KASAPI Program are the following:

1. It is not limited to cooperatives like the first model;
2. It will be offered to bigger OGs like micro-finance institutions (MFIs) with at least 1,000 qualified OG members and a minimum of 70% of the qualified OG members as actual enrollees for group enrollment to qualify for premium group rate;
3. It will provide hospitalization and regular out-patient benefit packages to enrolled members; and
4. It will issue Individual Membership Data Record (MDR) and PhilHealth Number Card (PNC) to ensure availment of benefits by the OG members with the OG to further provide each member proof of eligibility prior to availment.

The OGs that would express intent to partner with PhilHealth shall be subjected to an assessment/evaluation process based on operational, management and financial performance prior to the issuance of Certificate of Partnership and the signing of Memorandum of Agreement. The partnership shall be guided by the provisions of the Preliminary Guidelines of KASAPI Program. The corresponding implementing guidelines for this purpose shall be issued.

This Circular takes effect 15 days after publication.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Officer-in-charge
Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer

Manufacturing seen up 4.8%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WILL MANAGE to grow 4.8 percent this year despite the sluggish electronics exports industry, said the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neda Director General Augusto Santos said in a statement that robust domestic consumer demand should make up for the slack in the electronics manufacturing sector.

The manufacturing sector would thus help carry the economy toward the official target of a 5.3-percent gross in the gross domestic product.

The National Statistics Office reported the other day that the value of production index (VaPI) went up 20.4 percent in August over the same month last year.

The volume of production index (VoPI), on the other hand, jumped 7.3 percent from last year's figure of only 0.6 percent.

VaPI measures the value of produced goods by the manufacturing sector, while VaPI measures the volume of goods the sector produces.

An increase in the index usually means the manufacturing sector expects a pickup in demand, thus the increase in production.

Cocktales

From page B5

Beginning October 2006, all new and renewed US passports will contain electronic identification chips that will include a digital photo and all other information currently listed in the travel documents.

Not only will the US passports be harder to illegally reproduce, the embedded radio chips will also make it easier for US authorities to track the number of overseas trips of its citizens, besides facilitating faster and more accurate entries and exits for clogged immigration counters.

Northwest, Continental backtrack

AMID widespread backlash, Northwest and Continental have decided to immediately reinstate the luggage allowance for economy class travelers for transpacific passengers to and from Manila back to 70 pounds per piece.

The two US airlines had earlier announced that rising fuel prices had prompted them to limit the weight of the two free checked-in pieces of luggage accorded to economy passengers to 50 pounds each.

According to the grapevine, the about-face came after Asian airlines flying the same routes refused to follow the US competition.

And because of increased fuel costs, Northwest has also quietly dropped its popular, daily nonstop Tokyo-New York (JFK) flights, forcing East Coast-bound passenger to make a stopover in either Detroit or Minneapolis-Saint Paul.

That leaves Philippine Airlines, with its red-eye connections from either San Francisco or Los Angeles, the undisputed fastest airline to the Midwest and East Coast that passengers can take out of Manila.

Provided, of course, that PAL leaves on time.

Money-go-round

- THE CREATIVE hotshot BBDO Guerrero Ortega ad agency will try comic relief tonight as it celebrates its seventh anniversary amid top-level management changes with a "groundbreaking study in Pinoy humor" at the Ayala Museum. Lots of alcohol on the house served by sweet young things should also do the trick.
- Fully Booked, the country's best bookstore, has broken the bad spell that had doomed the numerous restaurants that made up the former Dish complex in Rockwell, whose space the bookstore now occupies. As its name successfully suggests, Fully Booked—the breadth and depth of its stock can rival regional and even US shops—is now scouting for a second location, most likely in Ortigas, near the Asian Development Bank.
- IF you are flying to Hong Kong this long weekend, do not make the mistake of buying cameras or electronic products in the territory. Chances are, you can get the same gadgets at lower prices locally.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PRESIDENT is quietly doing the rounds even among the key business families. After having attended last Friday a grand Tambunting celebration, the birthday of Tereret Tambunting-Liboro the following day, GMA will tonight be a guest of taipan Andrew Gotianun in Wack Wack for his newest Filinvest housing project.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PRULINK — **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week October 25, 2005	Last Week October 18, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.28390	1.28214
Managed Fund - Peso	1.38333	1.38474
Growth Fund - Peso	1.02365	1.03115
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1490	1.1483

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE — **UNIT PRICES (in Php)**

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	October 24, 2005	October 17, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.061454	1.059697
Balanced Fund	1.041339	1.043282
Equity Fund	0.995380	1.005887

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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- PS/2 keyboard and scroll mouse
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3 of 4 Filipinos consider themselves poor or very poor

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

DURING LAST WEEK'S REGULAR MEETING of the MAP-ABCD (Management Association of the Philippines-Agribusiness Countryside Development) Foundation, chaired by Ramon Illusorio, Pulse Asia executive director Dr. Ana Tabunda gave the results of the Ulat Ng Bayan survey done last July. In that survey, three out of four Filipinos (73 percent) consider themselves to be poor or very poor. In the National Capital Region (NCR), the corresponding figure is 53 percent. The conclusion is that even if we see poverty in the NCR, the situation in the countryside is far worse.

I have consolidated into one table the different numbers presented by Dr. Tabunda on how Filipinos feel about their "personal quality of life" now as compared to last year. I also did some computations to show the difference between those who considered life "worse now" as compared to " better now".

PERSONAL QUALITY OF LIFE

Compared to Last Year, July 2005 (Row Percent)

	Better Now	Worse Now	Difference
Total	12	67	55
Area			
NCR	10	62	52
Luzon (except NCR)	14	67	53
Visayas	13	70	57
Mindanao	7	68	61
Countryside			
Urban	10	65	55
Rural	13	69	56
Class			
ABC	6	55	49
D	12	65	53
E	12	73	61

Several conclusions can be made from the above table. Looking at the total picture, the findings are alarming. Many more (67 percent) believe they are worse off now compared to those who think they are better off (12 percent).

Looking at the different areas in the country, all except NCR have more than two-thirds of their respondents believe they are worse off. While Visayas shows the greatest percentage of people who believe they are worse off (70 percent), it is Mindanao that shows the biggest difference between those who believe they are worse off compared to those who are better off (61 percent).

Comparing rural versus urban, it is the rural areas that have both the higher percentage of the people who believe they are worse off (69 percent) as well as the biggest difference between the two categories of "worse off" and "better off" (56 percent).

In terms of class, the poorest class (E) has again both the highest percentage of people who believe they are worse off (73 percent) and the biggest difference between the two categories (61 percent).

Reasons for poverty

Two main reasons emerged when the people were asked why they were poor.

The first reason given was the person's own negligence. Even the poorest class (E) cited negligence (24 percent), while a greater percentage of the well off classes (A, B and C) cited it (45 percent). This indicated that the well off classes should be more aware of the poor's perspective in addressing poverty.

The second main reason was "industry's inability to provide enough jobs" (24 percent). When we asked Dr. Tabunda whether Pulse Asia asked the question of "agriculture's inability to raise incomes", she said this was not even considered, but may be included in future surveys.

Since it is in rural more than urban areas, and since it is in class E more than the other classes, that have the larger percentage of people who believe they are worse off, preferential attention should be given to providing jobs and/or higher incomes in agriculture. This is because agriculture is where the majority of the rural and the class E people are.

Model farms

A solution we recommend is that we should replicate already successful models. When we increased the use of certified rice seeds from 700,000 to 1.5 million hectares in 2001 despite a P150-million cut in budget, this resulted in record rice yields and increased farmer incomes. A key to this success was the strategy of showing a farmer the already proven success of another who was already using certified seeds.

The same principle should be applied systematically to achieve progress and combat poverty. In every municipality, there is a designated Strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zone (SAFDC). The government-private sector Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) can choose an existing farm within this SAFDC to serve as a 'model for the farmers in that town to learn from and replicate. The local government and the Department of Agriculture (DA) should give this model farmer the appropriate support to transfer his technology and best practices to others. This was already done in more than 100 municipalities in 2002. It should be implemented in many more municipalities today.

Feasibility studies

The second recommended solution is to make maximum use of the DA's Agricultural Marketing and Assistance Service (AMAS). This office has 38 feasibility studies of different products such as sweet potato, abaca, mango, tilapia, and vermi composting . In addition, they have 11 pre feasibility studies on subjects such as tomato processing, mango puree, cassava chips, and powdered ube. These studies give the indicative investment costs and the expected profits from
agricultural venture. Many of the peop
the well off classes have the money, bu
at a loss as to what project to invest in w
will yield them profits, while simultaneo
benefiting the poor through added jobs
incomes. Then we will have more prog
and less poverty.

It is suggested that these studies be
dated and expanded to cover more p
ucts and placed on a website for easy
cess to farmers all over the country. Fo
mediate information on where to get t
studies, please call acting AMAS Dire
Francisco Ramos III at 02-9202216.

With these two solutions, it is h
that many more people, especially in
disadvantaged rural areas and class E
gory, will report that they are now b
off rather than worse off compared t
previous year.

*(For inquiries and suggestions, e
agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or te
8516635)*

US firm to open a casino at Poro Point

From page B1

panding the airport," he said. "Their main concern is for the airport to be able to accommodate at least an Airbus-sized aircraft."

He said Poro Point's airport could at present handle only small aircraft like Lear jets and 18-seater planes.

The airport expansion involves widening the runway and extending the existing strip to 2 kilometers from 1.2 km.

"Aside from that, the company committed to help PPMC secure a soft loan of about P108 million for airport development," Antonio said.

He explained that PPMC was in the process of securing a budget of between P200 million and P250 million for the expansion and improvement of the airport.

"We expect to be handling bulk of the region's air traffic in the coming years as Baguio City's Loakan airport become more and more (disadvantageous mainly because of visibility problems even in summer time)," Antonio said.

According to Thunderbird Gaming's website (www.thunderbirdgaming.com), the firm has 10 gaming operations in Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Venezuela.

Stocks up 0.36%

From page B1

said the long weekend may have prompted some investors to take to the sidelines, limiting the gains even though most stocks are cheap.

"There could be some weekend jitters," he said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone ended unchanged at P1,660 while Globe Telecom gained P5 to P705.

Ayala Land added 30 centavos to P8.90, its affiliate Bank of the Philippine Islands advanced 50 centavos to P51 while parent Ayala Corp. gained P2.50 to P285.

San Miguel A, exclusive to Filipino investors, ended unchanged at P65 and San Miguel B, open to all buyers, was down P1.50 to P88.50. *AFP*

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Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES OF MORE OR LESS 18,000 BAGS NFA RICE FROM TABACO/LEGAZPI PORT TO ORMOC CITY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office, Legazpi City invites all qualified Vessel Owners with a minimum load capacity of 17,000 bags rice with standard weight of 50 kilograms to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the provisions of freight services of more or less 18,000 bags NFA rice from Tabaco/Legazpi Port to Ormoc port, Ormoc City.

Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (in bags of 50 kg)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
Tabaco/Legazpi Port to: Ormoc City	18,000 bags	P 525,600.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Activity	Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Oct. 21-28, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 21 to Nov. 2, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
3.	Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 3, 2005	10:00 AM
4.	Deadline for Submission of Bids/ Eligibility Check & Opening of Bids	Nov. 15, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferrable/non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid is first advertised.

For furhter inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers: (052) 480-7933 / 480-7015 / 480-7085 / 820-008 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – October 22 & 28, 2005)

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NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT SHARES

Pursuant to Article XV of the Amended By-Laws of Canlubang Golf and Country Club, Inc. ("Cangolf"), notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Cangolf, in a meeting held on 19 August 2005, declared the following shares delinquent for failure to pay the arrears thereon (the "Delinquent Shares"):

Name of Member	Membership Certificate Number
Delta Motor Corporation	0704 and 0705
Regina Mngt. & Devt. Corporation	0846
Ver, Irwin	0739
Rivera, Romeo	0799
De Guzman, Sixto	1993
Sarmiento Management Corporation	1927
Okada, Yoshinori	1405
Lanao Agro Indt'l Corporation	0840
Marcos, Ferdinand	0777
Furber, Alvin	1726
Gaite, Ruperto	0169

Please be informed that the Delinquent Shares shall be sold at a public auction on 11 November 2005 at 10:00 a.m. The auction shall be conducted in the office of the Corporate Secretary of Cangolf located at the 5th Floor, SGV II Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. All interested parties may submit sealed bids for the Delinquent Shares on or before 10:00 a.m. on 11 November 2005 at the abovementioned office of the Corporate Secretary, provided that such bid shall not be less than the floor price of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P550,000.00) for each Delinquent Share.

Interested parties are advised to come at least one hour before the auction proper for registration. Registration shall open at 9:00 a.m. and close exactly at 10:00 a.m. For further inquiries, please call Ms. Maite Y. Tengco at 897-6887 or 890-9321.

ARSENIO C. CABRERA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

(PDI—Oct. 28, 2005)

Peza: IT projects continue to drive up investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-related projects continued to be a driver of growth for investment commitments to the country's economic zones, which reached P40 billion in the first nine months, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported yesterday.

Peza Director General Lilia B. de Lima said the amount meant an increase of 28 percent from P31.3 billion posted in the same period last year.

De Lima said investments registered from January to September accounted for P35.64 billion of local capital and about P4.4 billion of foreign direct investment.

Also, the 281 projects committed in the first three quarters are expected to create 56,591 new jobs or 57 percent higher than the 35,946 jobs promised in the same period in 2004.

For September alone, De Lima said approved projects reached a value of P7.2 billion or 280 percent higher than the P1.9 billion that was registered in the same month last year.

Investments committed last month account for P6.7 billion of local capital and P500 million of foreign capital.

She said 48 projects approved in September were expected to generate export revenues of $205.9 million a year and about 8,000 new jobs.

Peza data show that of the total approvals, 48 IT projects account for about P1.35 billion.

PLDT cited by Asian magazine

By Clarissa S. Batino

BARELY A WEEK AFTER making it in BusinessWeek's list of Asia's top 50 firms, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was again named as one of the region's top 50 companies by CFO Asia Magazine.

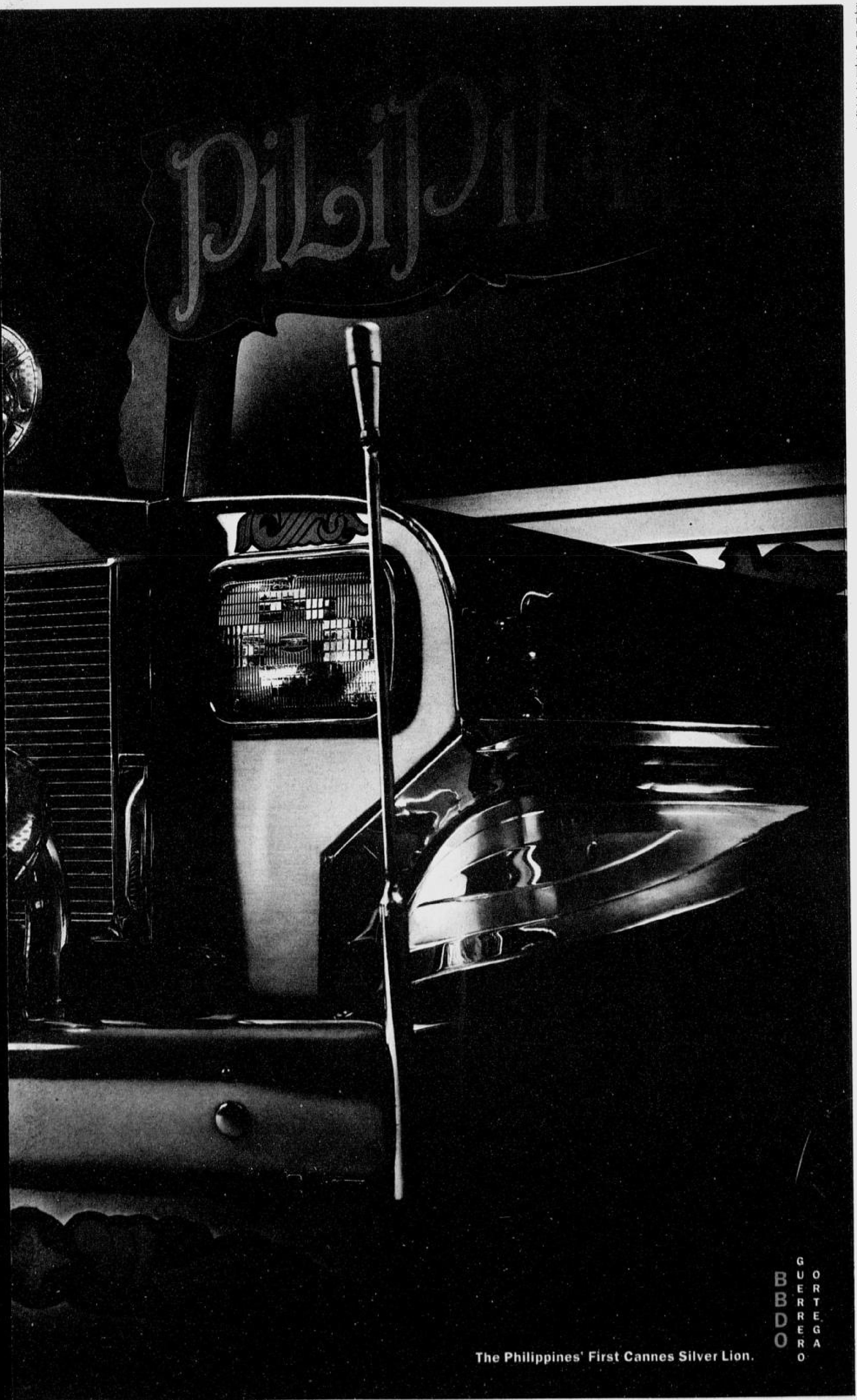
CFO Asia rated PLDT the 16th among Asia's top 50 firms in terms of shareholder value. Based on its calculation, PLDT registered a $618-million five-year annual average in excess value created for its shareholders.

PLDT's management team had consistently increased the company's shareholder value from 1999 to 2004. The company's market value was US$4.12 billion as of end-2004.

As in the BusinessWeek citation, PLDT was the only Philippine company in CFO Asia's list.

To identify the top management teams in Asia, the magazine measured "Company Edge," defined as the excess shareholder returns of the company over its regional peers, adjusted for country differences.

"Company Edge" sums up the company's total shareholder return over a period of time and then takes out the effects of background influences that are beyond the control of management such as interest rate changes, shifts in investor optimism, and effects of natural catastrophes.



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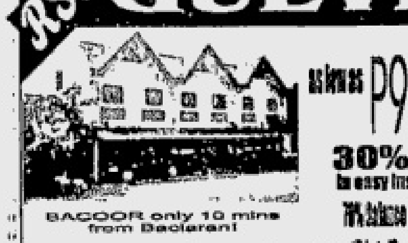

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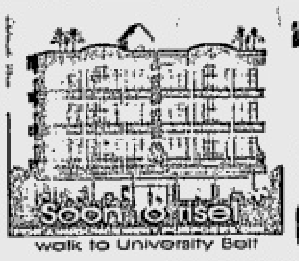

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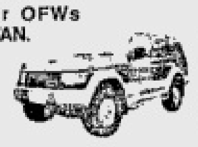

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1% Car Lending 656-0140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7220942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8950454

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(074) 442-8278, 442-2338

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN E. TORRES has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 49; Page No. 11; Book No. XLVII; Series of 2005 Notary Public Fernando T. Collantes
(PDI-Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the San Miguel Corp. Stock Cert. No. 99568244 338 shares under ROSA ESTEBAN were declared lost. If no contest is received in 1 year, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

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REST. & BAR PASAY RD. MKT. CITY
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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Republic of the Philippines
MISAMIS ORIENTAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
Claveria, 9004 Misamis Oriental

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology (MOSCAT) formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the MISAMIS ORIENTAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Fernando L. Bernardo.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be a Filipino citizen
- Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree
- Preferably between 40 to 60 years old but not more than 65 at the time of application
- Must be morally upright
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer or present employer
- Previous Employer

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents
- Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts of the College
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution
- Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before 29 November 2005 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S.M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED/5/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690 • Telefax no. (02) 636-1693
OR
MS. MARY FERN V. MERCADO
College and Board Secretary
Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology
Claveria, 9004 Misamis Oriental
Tel. No. (08822) 72-09-66 • Telefax No. (088) 358-1465

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
GIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD.,
NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990,
ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office - Visayas**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A: Name of Contract : **Construction of Perimeter Fence**
Location : Port of Maasin, Maasin, Leyte
Brief Description : Construction of Fence, Guardhouse, Gate, Plant box & Sidewalk
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P2,953,933.68
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : Seventy Five (75) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : Small B "Building"
Required Experience : At least Three (3) years
Required Equipments :
1) 2 units : One Bagger Concrete Mixer - Owned
2) 2 units : Bar Cutter - Owned
3) 2 units : Concrete Vibrator - Owned
4) 1 unit : Electric Steel Cutter - Owned
5) 1 unit : Welding Machine - Owned

B: Name of Contract : **Improvement of San Isidro Municipal Port**
Location : San Isidro, Leyte
Brief Description : Construction of RC Pier; Installation of T-Head Bollards; Installation of RDF
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P9,171,246.75
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : One Hundred Thirty Four (134) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : Small B "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering"
Required Experience : At least Five (5) years
Required Equipments :
1) 2 units Bar Bender - Owned
2) 1 unit Diesel Pile Hammer 3.3T Cap. - Owned/Leased
3) 2 units Bar Cutter - Owned
4) 1 unit Drop Hammer, 2T cap. - Owned/Leased
5) 1 unit Crane Barge, 45T - Owned/Leased
6) 1 unit Truckmounted Crane 45T - Owned/Leased
7) 1 unit Welding Machine - Owned
8) 2 units Concrete Vibrator - Owned
9) 2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer - Owned

C: Name of Contract : **Proposed Causeway Extension**
Location : Port of Caluya, Antique
Brief Description : Construction of Causeway
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P15,261,261.77
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : Eighty Five (85) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : Medium A "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Experience : At least Five (5) years
Required Equipments :
1) 1 unit Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.) - Owned/Leased
2) 2 units Concrete Vibrator - Owned
3) 1 unit Grader (125hp) - Owned/Leased
4) 1 unit Road Roller (Vibratory 10.0 T) - Owned/Leased
5) 2 units Dump Truck (10.0 cu.m.) - Owned/Leased
6) 1 unit Truckmounted Crane w/ Rock Grapple - Owned/Leased
7) 2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer - Owned

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shal be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility	November 11-17, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	November 11-17, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 18-24, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 29, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 5, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	December 12, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 19, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their ports.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ATTY. SARAH R. MIJARES
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 28 & Nov. 4, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

JOSE ROBERTO ROSKA OPPUS

"Bobby"

Peacefully joined his Creator on 23rd of October 2005 at the age of 56.

His bereaved mother **Ester**; brother and sisters **Rene** (†) & **Nelda, Choy, Echel & Bobby, Loy & Jeff, Maris & Richard**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sacred Heart Church Mortuary, Cebu City. Interment will be at Cebu Memorial Park on Saturday, 29th of October 2005 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Redemptorist Church.

VICTORIA G. NAVERA

peacefully joined her Creator on October 25, 2005 at the age of 83.

Her bereaved family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Navera's Residence, 149 Gen. Malvar Avenue, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 30, 2005 after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the St. Thomas Parish Church, Sto. Tomas Batangas.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS

National Power Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

NPC, PSD 2005-012

VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, WORK ORDERS INTENDED FOR NPC MAJOR POWER PLANTS

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget for CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected / disqualified at Bid opening.
2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibity check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on October 28, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC; Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC, Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

SCHEDULE NUMBER	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	BID DOCS. PRICE
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 5, 2005; 2:00 PM				
12A1	3BAC-05-432 (RP)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF 650KW, 4160V, 3 PHASE HOTWELL PUMP SQUIRREL CAGE INDUCTION MOTOR	P 1,870,000.00	P 1,000.00
12A2	3BAC-05-614 (RP)	FAN BLADES, 8 BLADES/SET, MODEL T-28H, HUDSON TUFF-LITE II	P 1,950,000.00	P 1,000.00
12A3	3BAC-05-746 (RP)	J.O.-REHAB OF ONE (1) UNIT MITSUBISHI GENERATOR SET	P 4,500,000.00	P 2,000.00
12A4	3MGM-05-222 (RP)	AIR CIRCUIT BREAKER	P 1,550,000.00	P 1,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 6, 2005; 2:00 PM				
12B1	3BAC-05-610 (RP)	VALVE ACTUATOR, PNEUMATIC	P 2,800,000.00	P 2,000.00
12B2	3BAC-05-660 (RP)	SHAFT & SUCTION BELL FOR HOTWELL PUMPS	P 4,150,000.00	P 2,000.00
12B3	3TPM-05-252 (RP)	HYDROGEN PURITY & PURGING GAS ANALYZER	P 4,200,000.00	P 2,000.00
12B4	3TPM-05-142 (RP)	PARTS FOR MAIN STOP VALVE	P 9,491,100.00	P 3,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 7, 2005; 2:00 PM				
12C1	5LGP-05-149 (LS)	BEARINGS, CUTLESS/SLEEVE	P 2,820,000.00	P 2,000.00
12C2	5LGP-05-291 (JP)	J.O.-FOR UPGRADING & MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ELECTRICAL CONTROLS & BRAKE SYSTEMS OF THE 45/10 TONNER POWERHOUSE OVERHEAD CRANE	P 10,000,000.00	P 3,000.00
12C3	5LGP-05-287 (JP)	TURBINE AUXILIARY OIL PUMP	P 14,500,000.00	P 4,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 8, 2005; 2:00 PM				
12D1	5PGP-05-253 (JP)	ASSEMBLY, FAN & REDUCER, GEAR ASSEMBLY	P 7,700,000.00	P 3,000.00
12D2	5PGP-05-145 (JP)	AIR COMPRESSOR	P 6,980,000.00	P 3,000.00
12D3	3TPM-05-177 (RP)	POWER CABLE	P 2,211,000.00	P 2,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 12, 2005; 2:00 PM				
12E1	OMWA-05-045 (ZC)	J.O. -FOR REFORESTATION 2MX3M SPACING	P 1,122,800.00	P 1,000.00
12E2	5BDP-05-137 (LS)	GAS INLET/OUTLET CASING	P 2,440,000.00	P 2,000.00
12E3	5BDP-05-177 (LS)	J.O.-FABRICATION/MANUFACTURING OF AIR & JACKET WATER RADIATOR ELEMENTS	P 5,000,000.00	P 2,000.00
12E4	2BCF-05-606 (JS)	GLOBE VALVES	P 2,780,000.00	P 2,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at any available NPC Function Room for the following bidding schedules on:

12A1-12A4	November 23, 2005; 9:00 AM	12C1-12C3 & 12D1 - 12D2	November 25, 2005; 9:00 AM
12B1-12B4 & 12D3	November 24, 2005; 9:00 AM	12E1-12E4	November 28, 2005; 9:00 AM

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Agham Rd. cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. +632-921-2818
rccardano@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. +632 921 7906 / 921-3362
www.napocor.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - PSD

(PDI - Oct. 28, 2005)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for sale:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FA	LA	SELLING PRICE	
	NCR					
1	Unit 302, 3rd Flr. Monica Condominium, 90 Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City	Condo	66	-	1,960,200	
2	B21 L26-D Gatmaitan St. Ext. BF Resort IV, Brgy. Pamplona, Las Piñas	1 Stry. Res	70	135	979,000	with illegal occupant
3	No. 15 DBP Road Brgy. Pulang Lupa Dos, Las Piñas City	Lot only	-	443	3,021,700	with illegal occupant
	LAGUNA					
1	B3 L1 Gumamela Street, San Jose Village II Ph. 5, Brgy. Biñan, Biñan	SD	84	159	920,700	
2	B22 L1 cor. Palosapis St., Alfonso Homes 1, Brgy. Labas, Sta. Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	72	71.40	894,300	
3	B27 L10 cor Calatagan Loop & Tindalo St., Alfonso Homes, Brgy. Labas, Sta. Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	90	68	962,500	
4	B15 L4 Lauan Lane, Alfonso Homes 1, Brgy. Labas, Sta, Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	54	72	794,200	
	CAVITE					
1	B6 L22 Villa Elisa, Anabu, Imus, Cavite	SA	33.6	66.5	258,280	
2	B3 L17 Villa Elisa Phase 2, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	SA	33.6	66.5	265,980	
3	B3 L3 ACM Sherwood, Anabu IIB, Imus, Cavite	RH	30	47.5	246,070	
4	B4 L30 Good Family Homes, Anabu 2, Imus, Cavite	SA	36	88	401,500	With Occupant; orig. borrower
5	B2 L8 P2 MaryCris Homes,Bucandala II, Imus, Cavite	RH	24	35	143,440	
6	B13 L7 ACM Sherwood Homes, Anabu IIB, Imus, Cavite	SA	36	74	357,060	
7	B9 L5 Silver Town IV, Bo. Malagasang, Imus, Cavite	RH	32.5	50	207,900	
8	B-19 L-5 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	TH	24	38	255,420	With Occupant; orig. borrower
9	B-5 L-6 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	TH	24	38	289,520	With Occupant/tenant
10	B-12 L-31 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	TH	24	78.8	314,050	With occupant
11	B-9 L-4 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	RH	24	38	289,520	
12	B6 L15 Regatta Classics, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	SA	42	84	432,960	
13	B5 L1 Regatta Classics Ph. IIB, Brgy. Anabu II B, Imus, Cavite	RH	36	50	276,100	With Occupant; orig. borrower
14	B3 L8 Regatta Classics Subd., Ph. III, Anabu 2, Imus, Cavite	TH	42	53	298,870	With occupant
15	B9 L30 Villa Elisa, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	SA	33.6	76	288,640	
16	B2 L30 Villa Elisa Phase 1, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	RH	24	57	276,430	With Occupant/tenant
17	B4 L27 Villa Elisa Subd., Phase 1, Anabu, Imus, Cavite	SA	33.6	66.5	258,280	
18	B2 L22 Regatta West Subd., Bucandala, Imus Cavite	RH	36	68	325,600	
19	B2 L3 Regatta Classics, P3, Anabu, Imus Cavite	TH	41	40	204,600	
20	B8 L25 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	TH	24	38	255,420	With occupant
21	B8 L3 Alfonso Village, Alapan, Imus Cavite	TH	24	38	189,420	
22	B14 L27 Daisy St. Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 1, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	SA	36	76.00	315,480	
23	B14 L20 Ilang-ilang St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 1, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	SA	36	76	322,080	With occupant
24	B54 L28 St. Luke St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 3, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	RH	30	47.5	222,200	
25	B70 L17 Dasmariñas St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 2, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	SA	36	76	257,180	
26	B59 L30 Matabungkay St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 2, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	RH	24	38	130,240	
27	B70 L25 Dasmariñas St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 2, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	SA	36	135	481,800	
28	B2 L10 Regency Drive Regency Exec. Townhomes, Malinta, Dasmariñas	TH	40	50	317,900	
29	B3 L59-B Vanda St., South Garden Homes, Salitran, Dasmariñas	RH	23	42	164,560	
30	B75 L13 Confederation Drive, Cityhomes Burol, Dasmariñas	RH	24	38	126,940	With occupant
31	B13 L16 Universe St., Armstrong Village, Paliparan, Dasmariñas	RH	25	38	138,600	
32	B8 L13 Uranus St., Armstrong Village, Paliparan, Dasmariñas	RH	25	38	126,000	
33	B17 L38 Ilang-ilang St., Village Park Ph. 1, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	RH	35	38	187,770	With occupant

SA - SINGLE ATTACHED
SD-SINGLE DETACHED
STRY - STOREY
TH - TOWNHOUSE

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-59, 897-32-90
OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE 4TH FLOOR JADE BLDG., 335 GIL PUYAT AVE. MAKATI CITY
GLORIA VIRATA - LAGUNA & CAVITE AREA
KAREN BAHIA - REGIONAL ACCOUNTS (897-32-95)

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
OIC, VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRE
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI-Oct. 28, 2005)

BOARD OF INVESTMENT

TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that CP MEDTRANS SOLUTIONS, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New ICT-Enabled Service Firm in the field of Data Entry Services on a Non-Pioneer Status and with project/plant site located at 12th Floor, Ayala Life Building, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Road, Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing under oath with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 28, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA FREEPORT AUTHORITY, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply and Installation of Slope Protection (Coir Geotextile - EM04 with Coir Fascine (EL20/EL30) for the Rehabilitation/Widening of Old Logging Road
Location	ZFA Highlands, Zamboanga City
Approved Budget For the Contract	PhP 2,318,800.00
Delivery Period	Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of Purchase Order and Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 8-11, 2005
2. Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Submission/Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 21, 2005 9:30 AM, Audio-Visual Room, 3/F Zamboecozone Authority, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
3. Bid Evaluation	November 21-23, 2005
4. Post-qualification	November 24-26, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) to the ZamboEcozone and Freeport Authority Cashier.

The Zamboanga Freeport Authority assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA P. YU
Chairman & Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 28 & Nov. 4, 2005)

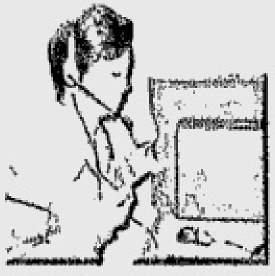
PMAP conducts four-day workshop

The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a four-day workshop on Essentials of Human Resource Management Overview from Nov. 7-10. The course aims to provide participants the knowledge and skills to perform the different functional operations in human resource management while providing insights on current issues and trends involved in the practice of the profession. Registration fee is P8,500 for PMAP members and P10,000 for non-members.

The program titled Principles and Techniques in Instructional Design is scheduled on Nov. 8-9. It aims to equip the participants with ability to identify the appropriate approach(es) and methods to achieve their training objectives. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP members and P7,100 for non-members.

A two-day workshop on Legal Considerations in Compensation from Nov. 8-9 will provide comprehensive view of the different legal enactments, rules and regulations that deal with employee compensation. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP members and P7,100 for non-members.

For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at tel. nos. 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph



PGMA Cites Call Center Industry

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo inaugurated last Monday, October 24, the executive and servicing offices of WinSource Solutions Inc., the newest player in the fast-growing call center industry in the country today.

Determined to reach her target of six million jobs before her term expires in June 2010, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been encouraging the establishment of call centers in the country, slowly creating the nation's niche as the outsourcing business process hub in Asia.

She officiated the formal opening of WinSource Solutions Inc. at the new Robinsons Cybergate Tower I located in Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City. With the President were David Mabey, Chairman of the U.K. Mabey Group of Companies, and Peter Beckingham, British Ambassador to the Philippines.

Officials and employees of WinSource Solutions Inc. led by Managing Director Grant T. Butsumyo welcomed the President and other distinguished guests for the inaugural.

WinSource boasts of an experienced management team with an average experience of seven years in the Philippine call center industry. The team has gone through all the phases of putting up a call center. The group has gone through start-up mode several times and during the process, they have been successful in transforming these organizations into highly competitive players in the industry.

"The other companies did not have the luxury of having such an experienced team," Butsumyo said, "We know how to do start up, we know how to manage the programs and we have touched, actually crossed all service verticals and touch points in the industry."

Butsumyo has been involved in the Philippine outsource call center industry since 1996, starting up one of the first outsource providers in the Philippines. He has extensive and varied experience spanning 20 years in information technology, call center technology and operations and general management. He has been involved in several industries including financial services, cable and satellite television and consulting services.

(From L to R)
Mr. David Watson; Mr Grant Butsumyo, President & Managing Director of WinSource Solutions, Inc.; Mr. Peter Beckingham, U.K. Ambassador ; Mr. Teodorico Haresco, Chairman-WinSource Solutions, Inc.; Mr. David Mabey, Chairman of the Bevil Mabey Study Foundation

WinSource Solutions Inc. one of several subsidiary companies of WinAce Holdings Philippines Inc., a British affiliate of U.K.-based Mabey Group of Companies, Ltd. will be engaged in providing business process outsourcing services; information technology enabled services (encompassing call centers, data encoding, transcription and processing); knowledge based and computer-enabled support services; and other information technology related services primarily to clients outside of the Philippines.

WinSource will provide a capacity of 1,000 seats with the employment of approximately 2,000 employees. It will service its customers through digital and electronic software applications and other services and facilities to complete commercial transactions.

The company's initial services will be focused on call center services for the United States market. This includes the full cycle of customer interaction including customer acquisition, customer service and customer retention programs. It is also experienced in delivering technical support, helpdesk, financial and billing inquiries.

(Top Photo) Officiating Priest: Fr. Cornelio Moral,O.A.R.

(Right Photo) Chairman Teodorico Haresco

(Left Photo) PGMA Is briefed on GMA Modular Libraries

(Bottom Photo) PGMA greets WSI guests

Assisting Butsumyo at WinSource Solutions are Anna Karenina C. Soliman, WinSource's Director of Operations; Celina C. Recto, Director of Finance; Renato D. Nayona, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development and Jorge G. Manansala, Director of Service Quality.

Soliman has held various positions in her nine years of experience in the industry. She has been employed by both foreign and local call centers and has been involved in start-up operations.

Prior to joining WinSource Solutions, she handled the positions of Vice President for Call Center Operations and Vice President for Implementation and Management for a business in the call center industry. Her core competencies include call center build-out, program implementation, call center operations, quality assurance and training and client services.

Recto, on the other hand, brings with her an extensive background in accounting and financial management. A registered Certified Public Accountant, she has worked in various industries such as insurance / finance, manufacturing / industrial, and, in the past eight years, the call center industry.

She has helped organizations in their start-up phase and due to her financial expertise coupled with a good grasp of the day-to-day operations of an outsource provider, she has contributed to their eventual success. Prior to joining WinSource Solutions, Recto held the position of VP of Finance and Administration for a business in the call center industry.

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WinSource Solutions, Inc. Responds

PGMA cuts ceremonial ribbon on inauguration of the executive and servicing offices of WinSource Solutions, Inc., as company officials and guests look on

The man in charge of human resources and organization development brings with him 17 years of experience in training, organizational development and human resource management. Nayona has done consultancy work for some of the country's reputable multi-national companies and has conducted seminars overseas.

Nayona is a Certified Development Dimensions facilitator and was the director of human resources and organizational development for a business in the call center industry.

Manansala covers the quality and compliance functions for the organization. He has been involved with the industry since 2002 and has handled various positions such as quality assurance manager, client services director and operations director. He has been involved with the quality function for the past seven years and is a registered ISO Lead Assessor and COPC 2000 Coordinator.

He joined one of the country's top foreign commercial banks in 1995 eventually handling the Service Quality Section. With his prior exposure in the banking environment, Manansala brings along his experience on process audits, compliance and process controls to the organization.

During the inauguration, President Macapagal Arroyo was also briefed by Mr. David Mabey of the GMA Modular Libraries which the Mabey Group of Companies Ltd., U.K. will undertake with Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. Programmed for construction are 1,000 GMA Modular Libraries nationwide. Of the total number, 100 units will be constructed by the Bevil Mabey Study Foundation (BMSF), a civic and service arm of the Mabey Group, and 900 units will be constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways. These modular library units will be constructed in areas where modular steel bridges have been erected, notably in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Special Zone of Peace and Development and in far flung barangays nationwide.

"The Bevil Mabey Study Foundation, to help underprivileged rural schools, initiated a comprehensive reference book program since two years ago. Some 100 rural schools have been recipients of these books," library units is also being considered for these facilities. Of the country's 81 provinces, only 40 provinces have provincial libraries; 89 city libraries out of more than 100 cities, and of the 41,688 barangays, only 350 reading barangay centers have been set-up.

Aside from the GMA Modular Libraries, the BSMF has allotted some P1 million annually for the scholarship grants to orphaned children of slain Filipino journalists, in coordination with the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) for the next five years.

With our grand opening held last October 24, 2005 at the state-of-the-art Robinsons Cybergate Center, graced by no less than Her Excellency, Ms. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we herald an auspicious beginning towards contributing to the success of the industry and the country. We add our expertise to the growing list of call centers providing world-class integrated solutions; reinforcing our goal of making the Philippines, the country of choice for BPO/Call Center work.

We begin by employing, training and empowering the right people, provide them with the latest technology and support them throughout the life of the program.
We are looking for individuals:

..... with great passion for excellence
..... who strive to make a difference in their careers
..... with goals to reach the top
..... who want to make big things happen
..... who want to be a big fish in a small pond

If you believe you have what we are looking for, we have the following career opportunities for you:

- Customer Service Representatives for Outbound and Inbound
- Technical Service Representatives
- Operations Supervisors
- Communications, Sales & Account-Specific Trainers
- Executive Assistant
- Accounting Staff
- Receptionists
- Facilities Manager
- Finance & Admin Manager

Candidates for all positions must possess the following minimum requirements:

- *Excellent communication and comprehension skills*
- *Good problem-solving and decision-making skills*
- *Willingness to work in different shifts*
- *Customer oriented*
- *Thrives in an environment of change*
- *Team player*

Be part of our growing family by sending us your resumes and contact details to:

Address : 14/F Robinsons Cybergate Center,
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Email : winsource001@gmail.com
Telephone : 687.6438
Fax : 687.7012

SMC Aussie unit to double exports

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NATIONAL FOODS LTD., THE AUSTRALIAN dairy unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., expects to double its exports to Asia-Pacific to A$100 million in two years.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, San Miguel said some A$55 million, or 5.5 percent, of National Foods' total revenues currently come from key export markets like Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Indonesia.

San Miguel hopes to raise this to A$100 million by 2007.

"We would like to extend National Foods' product reach to high-growth emerging markets like the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand," said San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang.

National Foods is set to introduce dairy products in the Philippines and develop packaging formats and sizes targeted specifically for markets in Asia.

It also plans to export Berri Ltd. juice products like Sunblest and Burst to Southeast Asia and come up with high-calcium milk for Asian consumers.

With Australian juice maker Berri folded into its business, National Foods' product portfolio, which includes milk, fresh dairy

SMC/B14

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	60,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51	50.5	51	116,000
China Banking Corp.	600	610	600	610	200,710
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,200,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47.5	47	47.5	31,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26	26.5	200,500
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	30	5,300
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	5,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,960,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2810	2810	2810	410
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	7,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	130	130	130	130	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	1990	1990	320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	2,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	330,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	720	700	705	68,480
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	12,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	9,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1670	1670	1655	1660	59,910
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	38,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	17,800
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20	708,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	774,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	641,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	60,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	26,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	300,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.7	3.85	3.6	3.6	6,109,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	4,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	129,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	5,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36	35.5	36	77,200
Pancake House Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	168,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	700,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	24,700
San Miguel Corp. B	89	89	88	88.5	116,200
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	2,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.5	16	51,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,840,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	282.5	290	282.5	285	56,710
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	60,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5,336,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	8,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	1,056,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	6,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	340,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	2,350,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	710,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.25	9,690,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	303,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	700,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	43	41.5	43	279,600
House Of Investments Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	1,441,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	520,000
Paxys Inc.	5	5.3	5	5.2	1,634,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	430,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	1,300,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	219	220	94,570
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	34,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	33,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	30,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7	7.7	7	7.7	3,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	131,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	520,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	11,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.9	2,588,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	2,450,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	90,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	469,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	3,040,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	540,000
SM Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,454,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	54,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8.1	8	8	40,000
Benguet Corp. B	24.5	28	24.5	28	6,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	40,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,540,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	4,540,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	106,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	1,841,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.22	1.28	1.2	1.26	5,497,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	18,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	1,600,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	60,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	2,000,000

DISCLOSURES

MEGAWORLD Corp. scheduled the payment of the 20 percent stock dividend on December 6.

***

STOCKHOLDERS of **Universal Malayan Reinsurance Corp.** approved the articles of merger and plan of merger with National Reinsurance Corp. The merger will be subject to the approval of Insurance Commission.

***

AYALA Land Inc. announced the resignation of Cynthia Poblador, Vice President and Head of Legal Department effective Oct 22. The new legal department head is Sheila Marie Tan.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. will hold its stockholders' meeting on November 23, 10 am, at Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct 14 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

***

SEMIRARA Mining Corp. bought 140,000 shares P26.50 each as part of the company's buy-back program. ***Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 27, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828706	1.000000	55.0590
Japan	Yen	0.007153	0.008631	0.4752
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470871	1.774900	97.7242
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106890	0.128984	7.1017
Switzerland	Franc	0.645813	0.779302	42.9076
Canada	Dollar	0.708478	0.854920	47.0710
Singapore	Dollar	0.489693	0.590912	32.5350
Australia	Dollar	0.625486	0.754774	41.5571
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.198277	2.652661	146.0529
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220970	0.266645	14.6812
Brunei	Dollar	0.488250	0.589171	32.4392
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020302	0.024498	1.3488
UAE	Dirham	0.225627	0.272264	14.9906
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.206700	66.4397
Argentina	Peso	0.276928	0.334169	18.3990
Brazil	Real	0.365552	0.441112	24.2872
Denmark	Kroner	0.134082	0.161797	8.9084
India	Rupee	0.018411	0.022217	1.2232
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219566	0.264950	14.5879
Mexico	New Peso	0.076053	0.091773	5.0529
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582079	0.702395	38.6732
Norway	Kroner	0.128114	0.154595	8.5118
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013916	0.016793	0.9246
South Africa	Rand	0.124114	0.149768	8.2461
Korea	Won	0.000793	0.000957	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.105105	0.126830	6.9831
Syria	Pound	0.015964	0.019264	1.0607
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024657	0.029753	1.6382

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DOF takes prorated approach in corporate tax hike

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the collection of corporate income tax based on the new rate of 35 percent would be done on a prorated basis, a move which it said would ensure fair implementation of the tax hike.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said that in computing a taxpayer's 2005 full-year income, only incomes generated in November and December would be covered by the 35-percent corporate income tax, while incomes earned earlier in the year would still be subject to the old 32-percent rate.

The increase in corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent will take effect on Nov. 1. The corporate income tax hike is one of the minor provisions contained in the VAT Reform Law, which basically will expand the coverage of the value-added tax to include oil and electricity among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting January 2006.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, attached agency of the DOF, said it would ensure that the computation of corporate income tax for taxable year 2005 would be done in a careful manner to make sure only earnings generated in the last two months of the year would be subject to the higher tax rate.

"The income is made over a 12-month period," Jose Mario Buñag said at the sidelines of his meeting with revenue agents in Iloilo City last Tuesday. "It would be unfair to subject the entire income to the 35-percent corporate income tax rate, so our intention is to really prorate it."

But Bonoan also told the public, especially businesses that are not yet legitimate taxpayers, to register their businesses with the BIR before the implementation of the VAT Law on Nov. 1.

He said previously VAT-exempt companies could still use their oil receipts, which indicated that they were "non-VAT" firms, provided that they would strike out the term "non" in the receipts to clarify to their clients that they will be subject to VAT.

Once their old receipts are used up, they will have to apply for new "VAT" receipts.

Bonoan reminded taxpayers who fail to register their businesses that, if caught by authorities, they risk closure of their businesses and face imprisonment of one to ten years for tax evasion.

Due to P4.7B in arrears, SBMA threatens to repossess assets

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY is forming a credit collection division to press payment from locators, amounting to some P4.7 billion in arrears, according to SBMA Administrator Armand C. Arreza.

"SBMA wants to at least repossess the assets involved in these (accumulating arrears)," he said. "We can either redevelop these or sell them."

Arreza, who is also SBMA chief executive, said the amount included the principal and interest on payables from locators at the Subic Freeport.

"Of the total amount, P4.4 billion is owed by the 20 biggest locators, while the small firms owe SBMA the remaining P300 million," Arreza said.

He added that the new division would also investigate credit worthiness of potential new investors.

"The biggest single receivable to SBMA is P2 billion from Freeport Villas, the developer of the villas that were built to house visiting heads of state during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in 1996," Arreza said.

There were 21 villas that were built specially for the summit, whose brief and one-time occupants included then United States President Bill Clinton.

Arreza said SBMA was actively pursuing payments and that the thrust was avoid going to court as much as possible.

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The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

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To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading its field offices to provide a conducive working environment for its staff in order to have an efficient delivery of service. BIARSP will purchase computer sets, laptops, printers, scanners, software, binding machines, LCD projectors, projector screens, digital cameras among others, for its lead implementing agency, the Department of Agrarian Reform.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to bid for the above-mentioned equipment in full or in batches. The equipment shall be delivered to one or more of the four (4) provinces of Region VII and one or more of the four (4) provinces of Region IX.

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES – Tenders) for the detailed list of office equipment to be purchased, specifications as well as delivery destinations for the said equipment. Please submit proposed technical document with information such as company profile, proposed budgetary requirements, description/experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

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For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn C. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

Interested parties are advised to submit their documents not later than November 28, 2005.

(PDI - Oct. 28 & 30, 2005)

PGMC gets blessing to put up 3,000 lotto terminals

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE GAMING MANagement Corp., operator of lotto terminals in Luzon, has secured the blessing of a tribunal to provide up to 3,000 lotto terminals in the country under an equipment lease agreement with the government.

In an Oct. 24 ruling, the Arbitral Tribunal of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines declared that the equipment lease agreement between the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and PGMC was valid.

PCSO is the government agency authorized to conduct lottery gaming in the Philippines.

PGMC meanwhile holds a lease agreement with the PCSO that allows it to be the exclusive provider of lottery hardware, software, management and technical services to the PCSO in the National Capital Region and the rest of Luzon.

The tribunal also directed the PCSO to revoke its earlier resolution vetoing the lease agreement.

Under the lease agreement, PGMC will upgrade and replace the online lottery equipment with new terminals. The agreement also provides an adjustment in the equipment rental rate and the extension of the lease term.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development under former secretary Dinky Soliman earlier vetoed an amended Equipment Lease Agreement between PGMC and PCSO.

SMC Aussie unit to double exports

From page B13

foods and specialty cheeses, has expanded to juice and water.

National Foods is Australia's leading producer of fresh milk, yogurt and specialty cheeses under brands like Pura, Masters, Farmers Union and Classic.

The company also manufactures Yoplait fresh dairy products under license and produces Vitasoy soy beverages through a joint venture with a Hong Kong partner.

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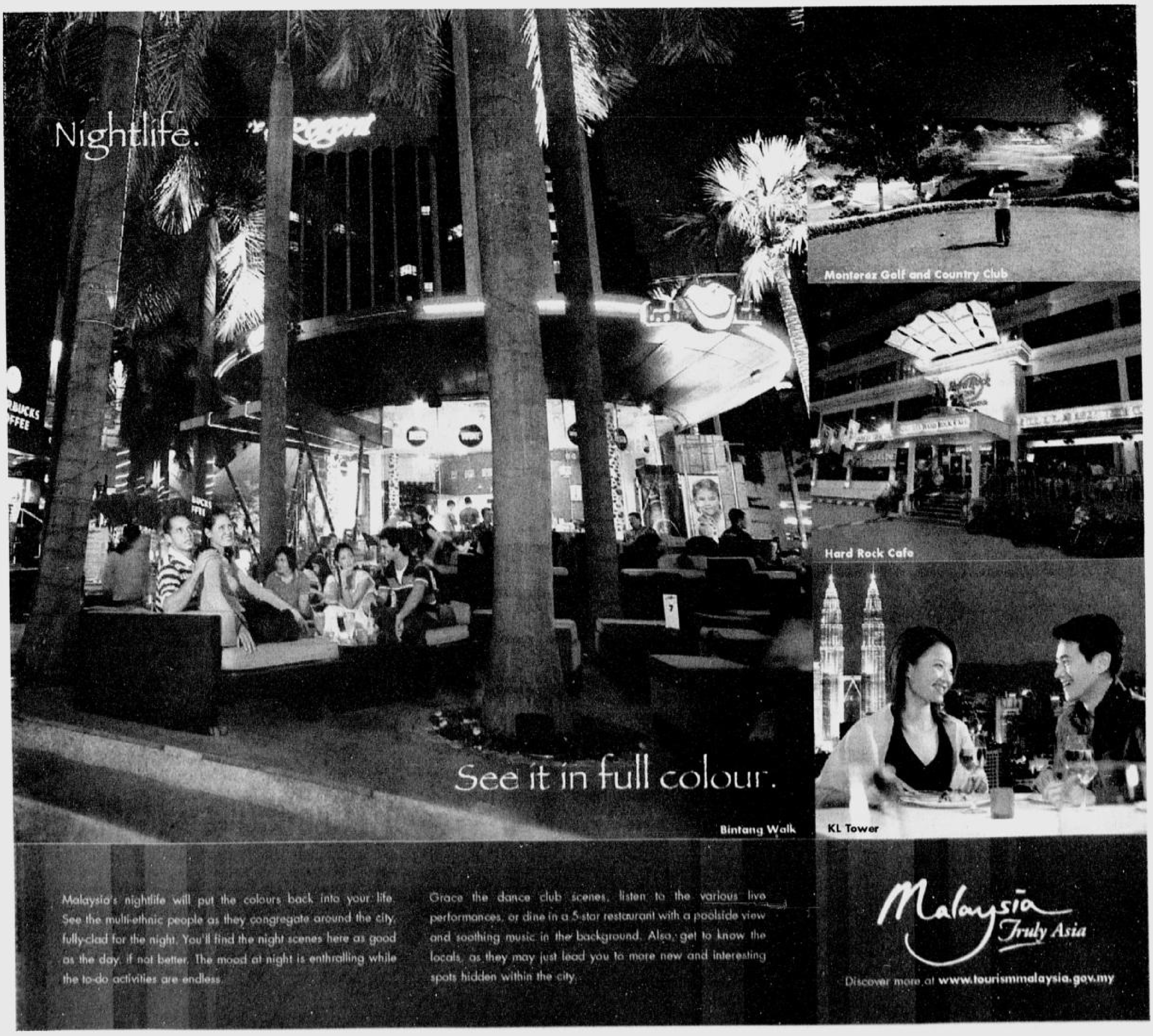

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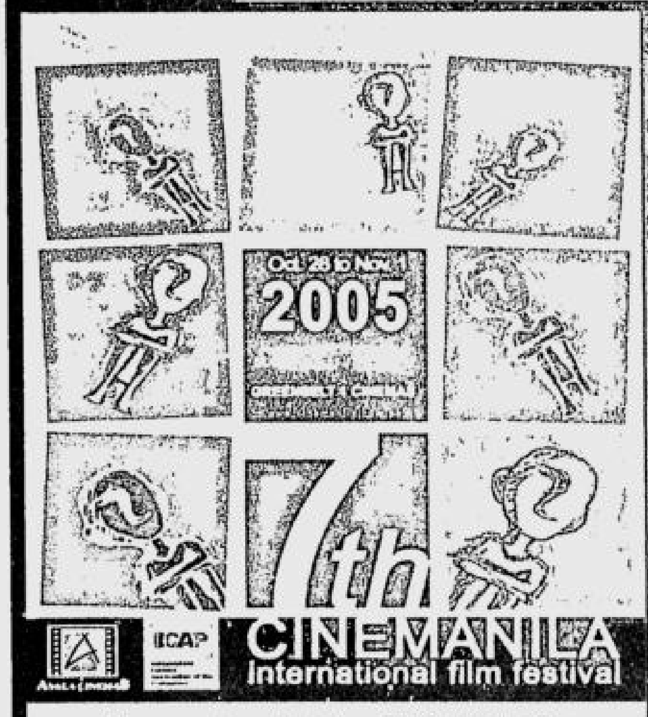
Cinema					
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 DOOM	2 LEGEND OF ZORRO	3 MY SASSY GIRL	4 ISPIRITISTA	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	2 ISPIRITISTA	3 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 LUTHER / LEGEND OF ZORRO	5 ISPIRITISTA	6 LEGEND OF ZORRO	7 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 CINEMANILA For inquiries, call 750-4180 to 81			
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2:00, 5:05, 10:35 GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 LORD OF WAR 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DOOM 2:10, 4:15 / LEGEND OF ZORRO 8:35, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO			
	3 DOOM	4 ISPIRITISTA	5 LEGEND OF ZORRO		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 DOOM	4 ISPIRITISTA	



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GALLERIA — 632-9116

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2• THX
1:30 4:20 7:20 10:00

2 ISPIRITISTA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 MY SASSY GIRL
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
11:10 2:00 4:50 7:50 10:30

6 DOOM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00

10 TRANSPORTER 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 MY SASSY GIRL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 LORD OF WAR
12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 ISPIRITISTA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 DOOM
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST — 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LORD OF WAR
1:40 4:10 6:35 9:00

2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:55 3:35 6:15 9:00

3 ISPIRITISTA
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

5 DOOM
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05

8 MY SASSY GIRL
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

NOVALICHES — 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

CITISQUARE MALABON — 288-257[illegible]

1 ISPIRITISTA
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER — 687-6378

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA

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Cinema 2 Ispiritista
Cinema 3 Doom
Cinema 4 Deuce Bigalow 2
Cinema 5 Lord of War

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1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 CORPSE BRIDE
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 ISPIRITISTA

LIPA — (043) 757-[illegible] (043) 312-5870

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE DESCENT
4 CORPSE BRIDE

DASMARIÑAS — (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 CORPSE BRIDE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

ANGELES — (045) 892-[illegible]

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MASAHISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2

IMUS — (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 ISPIRITISTA
2 WILD SIDE
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 DOOM

STARMILLS — (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-[illegible]

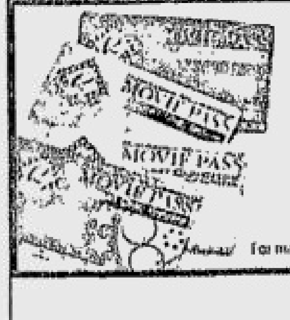
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MASAHISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

BACOLOD — (034) 441-0453 (034) [illegible]

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 TRANSPORTER 2

ILOILO — (033) [illegible]

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2



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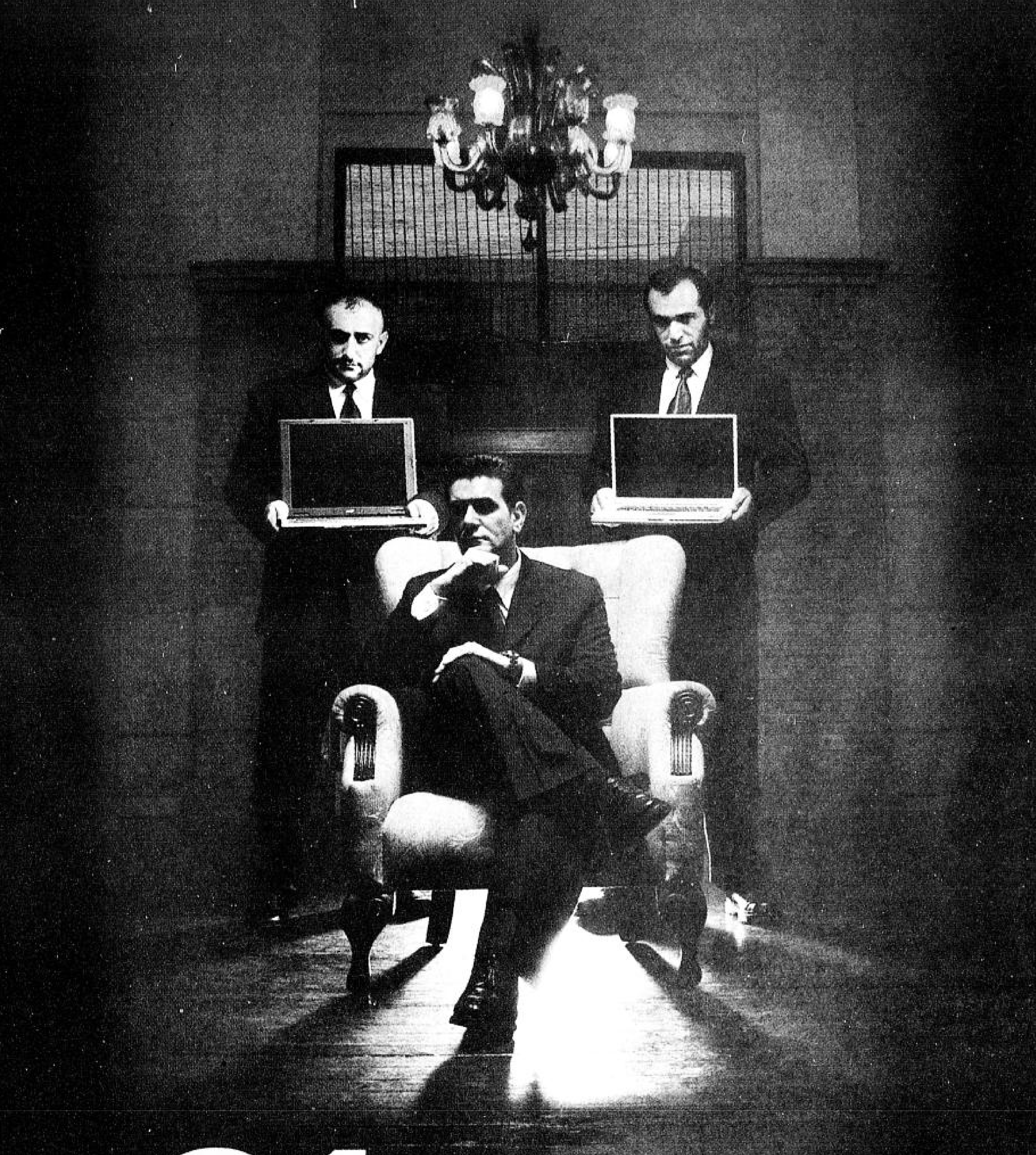

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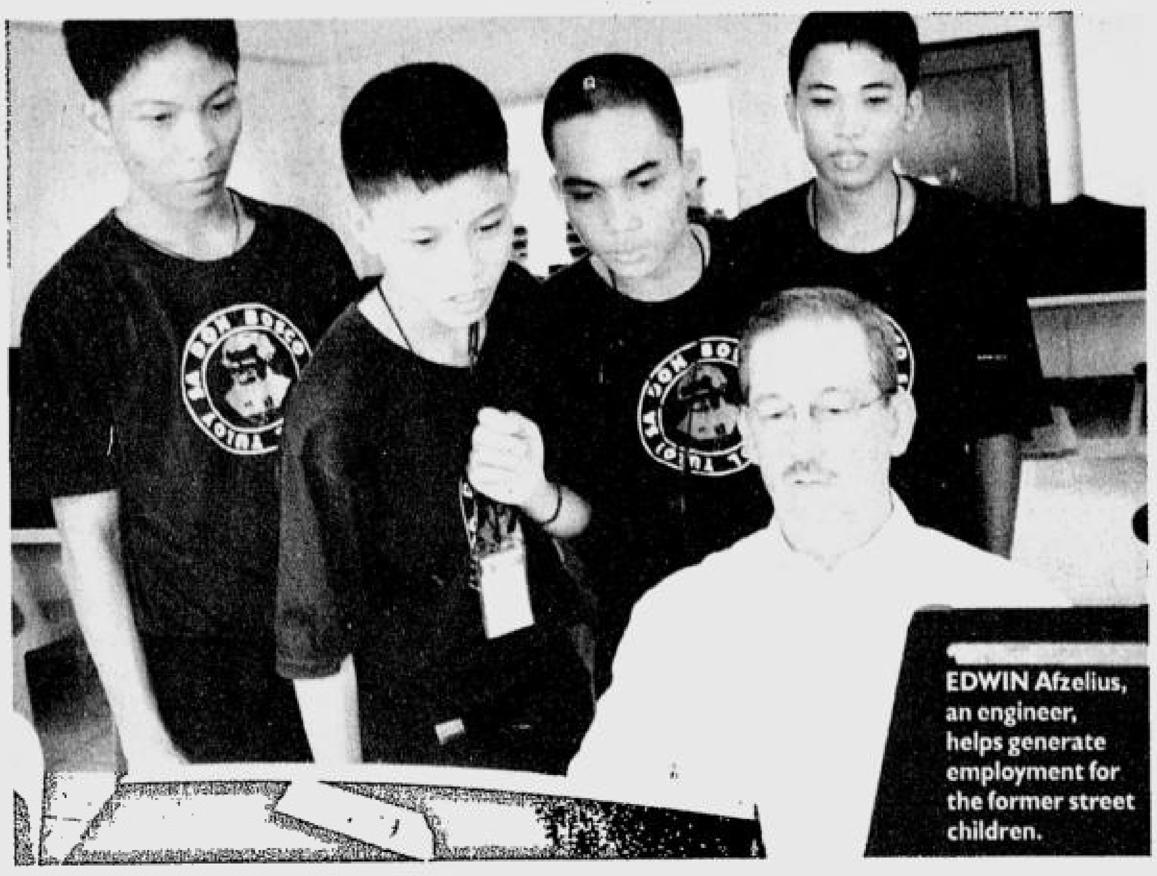

EDWIN Afzelius, an engineer, helps generate employment for the former street children.

By Pearlsha Abubakar
Contributor

IN BUSINESS, AN "ANgel" is a person willing to fund an ambitious project.

Fr. Rocky Evangelista of Tuloy Foundation, an NGO that provides housing and non-formal education to hundreds of street children, is lucky to have not just one, but several "angels" by his side.

Having headed their own businesses or working for local and multinational companies in various capacities, active and retired businessmen friends Polie de los Santos, Edwin Afzelius, Christian Espiritu, John Kerr, Carlos Pedrosa, Ric Pascua, David Coyiukat, Johnny Chan and his sons Ryan and Patrick, possess not just the "brains" for business but the heart for one of the most overlooked and undervalued assets of all: the street children.

"As business people, we always want a good return on investment," says Polie de los Santos, an accomplished and respected reinsurance broker who, with his wife Bubut, has been a Tuloy Foundation volunteer for several years now. "The future of a child is a very important investment. Because we want to be assured that our efforts will bear fruit, we have taken on the advocacy of helping keep children off the streets in partnership with Tuloy Foundation. The organization has been able to enlist our support and confidence because at Tuloy, we see where our 'investment' goes."

Symbol of hope

In a country where similar projects can unfortunately be mismanaged, Tuloy Foundation stands out as a symbol of hope. From a small room housing 12 street children inside the Don Bosco parish in Makati during the early '90s, Tuloy Foundation, with the help of many donors and volunteers, has since expanded into a Streetchildren's Village in Alabang, a 4.5-hectare facility inaugurated in 2001 complete with dorms, a chapel, a central cafeteria, a sports and recreational center, and most of all, a fully functional school that has graduated hundreds of students from a DECS accredited course that offers both the grade school and high school curricula in five years, and ends with two years of vocational and technical education.

Most of the graduates of its vocational school have already found employment outside Tuloy and are self-reliant, thanks not only to the skills they had learned at Tuloy, but also to the moral formation that Tuloy ensured they acquired.

The organization received the 2004 Consuelo Award for Highest Excellence by Consuelo Foundation, a Hawaii-based NGO, "for its visionary leadership and unwa-

ANGELS/ B2-1

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Loan Amount	P476,850.00
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Interest Rate (APS**)	48.31%
Monthly Payment	P9,823.00

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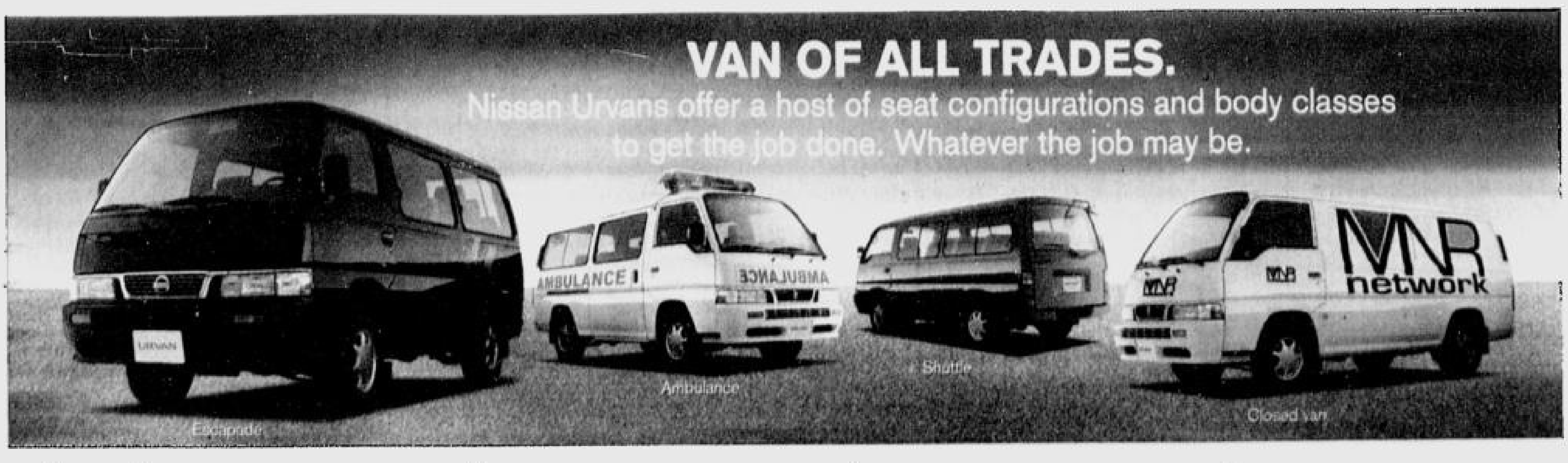
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Tagaytay's favorite buco tart

VIRGIE Malipol, owner of Amira's, started with a broken oven.

Amira's Buco Tart Haus
Buco
Mango
Apple
Pineapple
Ube
Amira's
BUCO TART
&
PASALUBONG
CUSTOMERS
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TAGAYTAY CITY—PEOPLE WHO go on a retreat in the 30 retreat centers here are usually not content with just savoring the taste of the buco tart they have for snacks.

They also bring home boxes of the product as "pasalubong" for their loved ones.

The delicious food item is from Amira's Buco Tart Haus.

"Some people think that the retreat centers themselves produce the tart that is served to them," says owner Virginia D. Malipol, called Virgie.

Among these retreat centers are La Salle, Don Bosco, Angel's Hills and Holy Spirit. Even the Development Academy of the Philippines is a customer.

Some of these houses order by the hundreds, Virgie says. Cars, including luxury ones, fill the parking space in front of Amira's on Sundays.

On peak season—September, November, December and March—Virgie sells about 1,200 boxes per day, or 12,000 pieces. She remember that one Christmas day, an individual bought 500 boxes for gifts.

A box is sold for P120 at Amira's.

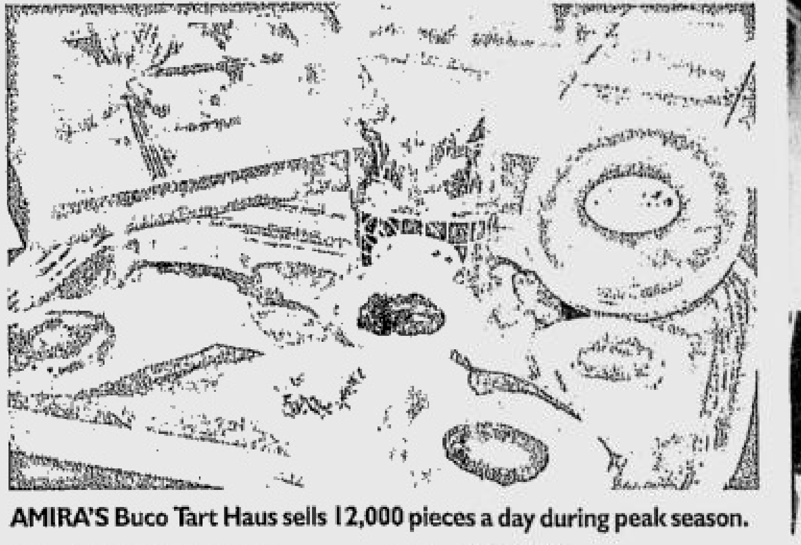
Orders can be packaged with ribbon without additional costs.

While the business name registered is buko tart, other tart products at Amira's are mango, apple, pineapple, langka and ube.

Virgie's products are sold abroad like in Spain, America and Australia.

Virgie's first store, across Amira's, is formerly Queen's best cakes and pastries.

"Last Christmas, I got an order of 250 boxes from a foreigner for sale in Singapore." She receives overseas calls for orders.



AMIRA'S Buco Tart Haus sells 12,000 pieces a day during peak season.

When not yet popular, she was earning P22,000 per day. Now, it's P50,000 net on a peak day. On lean season, she is able to sell around 5,000 boxes of tart.

Humble beginnings

Virgie had refused any media interviews in the past, even by a food magazine. But since the INQUIRER was endorsed by her friend, Fr. Caloy Paglicawan, a Mindoreño, of the St. Augustine Major Seminary—not very far from the tart house, Virgie agreed.

Virgie's business has two centers: the tart house at the entrance of SVD road and the production center in Barangay Maitim II East, which supplies to retreat centers and other customers.

A Marketing graduate at the Central Colleges of the Philippines, Virgie started cooking in an oven that she bought at a junk shop and which she had repaired, for P1,000. That was her starting capital.

Although she has four ovens now, she has kept the old one in gratitude, at the tart house.

"I didn't have a helper then." Now, Virgie already has 20 helpers, many of whom are Bicolanos.

In the beginning, she was only buying ingredients from the small market here.

"I carry the sack of flour by myself," she says.

She now has two cars—one for delivery and the other, for the use of her daughter Chela, 20, who studies at the College of St. Benilde in Manila.

The Malipols have only two children who help in marketing their products. Their second child Amira, 13, studies at the Montessori where she brings buko pie to sell everyday.

Tasking

Virgie's husband Robert used to be a salesman for a liquor company and a car firm but has since joined Virgie.

Virgie manages the production daily while Robert handles the product distribution and purchasing of ingredients.

"Robert makes sure that we have all the ingredients. I personally supervise the taste of our products," Virgie says.

She adds that their products have no preservatives and must be consumed in 2-3 days.

Asked for her product's edge, Virgie says, "It's creamier and the buko is fresh." Fresh buko comes from Indang, Cavite.

Virgie says she perfected the taste after 2-3 months of experimenting.

She is in the top 20 of Magnolia's customers, buying P250,000 worth of products per month.

Imitated

Another tart house became popular, with people not knowing that she was supplying it with the product. Other pasalubong stores imitated her tart style, which comes in a smaller size compared with the usual big round. When customers would look for the tart, the stores would get from Amira's.

An outlet's dealer wanted to franchise Amira's but Virgie says she wanted a uniform look for the business.

She is very open to suggestions by customers and recently put up a coffee corner in Amira's.

"We might serve as welcome drinks the buko juice, which used to be thrown away," she says.

The Malipols plan to have two outlets in Cavite and to expand to Batangas and Laguna.

Success factors

Virgie shares her success factors: always smile and be kind to your customers. This is because she does not quarrel with her husband.

"I always keep my cool, for my children to follow," she says.

She believes that "whatever problem is given, there is a corresponding solution."

Owing to her reach-out programs, Virgie is called a "social worker by her mother. I should have been a millionaire if I had not distributed my earnings to my relatives and other people who are in need."

She sends a brother's son to a Montessori who also carries tart to school, has two adopted in high school, helps a nephew go to a flying school in Parañaque, will put up a parlor for another family member who needs work, and gave work to a relative who used to be into jueteng. She also extends loans to her workers.

She has helped a dialysis patient and her sister-in-law with cancer, whom she sent to a hospital.

"What is important anyway is that we are not the ones who are asking but we are the ones giving. It is also important that we are healthy," she says. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

(Amira's Buko Tart House is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For information, please call 0910-4106-657 or 046-413-1491)

Angels...

From page B2-1

'vering faith in rescuing hundreds of children from violence and abuse." Father Rocky's exceptional work in Tuloy has been featured in a chapter of "Leading Beyond The Walls," the first book in the Wisdom to Action Series by the Drucker Foundation.

As president and CEO of Tuloy Foundation, Father Rocky has had many opportunities to cast the proverbial net into the sea of enlightened people everywhere. Himself an achiever, he is a management-savvy professional who had put up his own college in the '70s, and who has since garnered a string of awards to his name.

"There's a certain quality to the people drawn to support Tuloy," he observes. "They're usually accomplished professionals who set standards of excellence in their field. They choose to work for Tuloy precisely because it's already working and efficient."

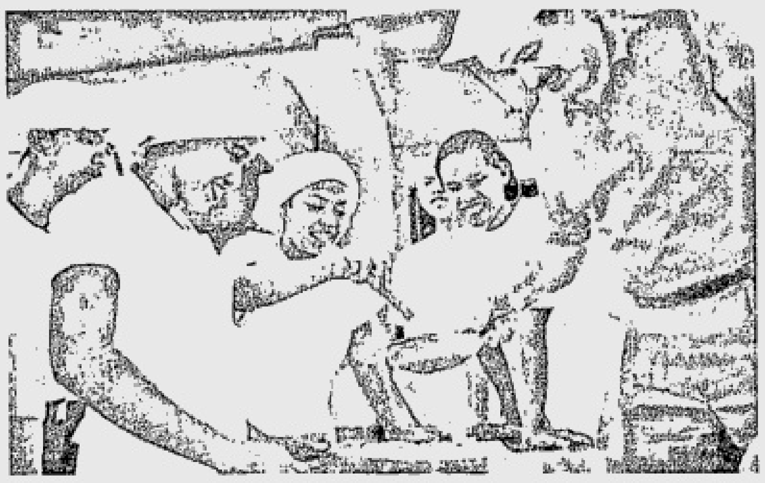
"A short-term band-aid approach is common among donors and volunteers who are into causes like that of helping street children. But we invest in a child for a lifetime, because we're investing in his future. Transforming a street child so that he gains a new lease in life does translate to the transformation of entire communities."

The angels

John Kerr, British expatriate executive now retired from DHL Hong Kong, joined Alabang Rotary and began his love affair with Tuloy at about the time when De los Santos adopted Tuloy Foundation as the club's flagship project a few years back. Kerr is a familiar figure to all the Tuloy children; he spends much of his time sourcing help for Tuloy from among his various business contacts abroad.

Christian Espiritu, erstwhile dean of Filipino fashion designers, hopes to attract more people to support Tuloy because its needs are enormous. Now retired and editor of the AAVA News, he strives to make Tuloy known to the Alabang community. Providentially, these two communities sit side by side, and many an Alabang resident who has shared his time and resources with Tuloy has found that his involvement with Tuloy has, in turn, enriched his life.

One morning at Tuloy, Father Rocky made a dramatic appeal to the conscience by bringing out a box full of crude weapons—a switchblade; a pipe; a harmless-looking plastic tube that, when opened, exposed a sharp 10-inch icepick; a slingshot with a reversible arrow; a welding rod—all weapons surrendered by Tuloy's wards back when they started studying and living in the facility as 10-13 year-old kids. Bizarre accounts of crimes committed using these weapons had been related to him by the children in confidence.



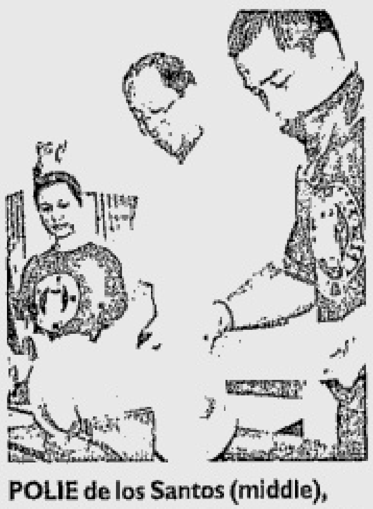
IN A COUNTRY where projects can be mismanaged, Tuloy Foundation stands out as a symbol of hope.

"Can you imagine what these children would have been capable of doing when they turn 20 years old?" the 62-year-old priest passionately exclaims. "We don't act because we're not yet their victims. These weapons have a brand: First come, first served or to whom it may concern. Why invest in these children? Because they have the potential to do both good and evil. Redirecting their lives for good is a sound investment not just for their benefit, but for everyone else's."

This group of businessmen friends, among many other "angels" of Father Rocky, is truly sold on the idea—heart and soul. Edwin Afzelius, an engineer in the semiconductors and electronics industry, has taken the initiative to help generate employment for the former street children. "I dealt with corporations which employed 5,000 to 10,000 people in one factory. If I succeed in introducing even just a few of these employers to the Tuloy cause, we not only generate jobs for Tuloy graduates, but allow them to be absorbed into the mainstream."

Afzelius spearheads Project CHASTE (Commitment to Help Adopt Street children for Tuloy Education), which brings together his own company, Tuloy and other companies with whom he does business, to rally behind this cause.

Carlos Pedrosa, retired president of Pilipinas Bank, agrees with De los Santos: "It struck us that these could have been any of our own children; given the same opportunities to have a decent home and an education, to be cared for and shown love—we improve their chances at leading meaningful lives. That is why this advocacy has been a calling for us."



POLIE de los Santos (middle), believes in investing in the future of a child.

This calling has bridged the generation gap; father and sons Johnny, Ryan and Patrick Chan, after building the Bellevue Manila—Alabang's only luxury hotel—immediately established the Bellevue Foundation as its commitment to the cause of improving the lives of children living nearby: in neighboring Marillac Hills, the Elsie Gaches Village, and especially Tuloy.

Tuloy welcomes help from more "angels." De los Santos concludes, "We can save so many more children if we get more people to believe and work together for this cause."

To this end, Father Rocky's "angels" are staging a concert entitled Light A Million Mornings on Jan. 6 and 7, 2006 at the CCP Main Theater. To be directed by the venerable Leo Rialp, it will feature Coke Bolipata's Pundaquit Virtuosi, famed violinists Julian and Eliza Quirit, and the Loboc Children's Choir, with the special participation of Tuloy's former street children.

Resto gets Internet savvy

THE FORT'S HIP CHINESE bistro Zong owned by restaurateur Joshua Tiu is abuzz at noontime. Its doors open to a constant stream of hungry yuppies, businessmen and families eager to feast on sumptuous Oriental dishes with a delightful contemporary twist. The pace is kinetic as waiters move to the chatter of dinners and clatter of cutlery. They are always on the ready to take orders, clear tables and serve dishes hot off the pan.

This is the kind of vibrant and energetic enthusiasm that permeates in Zong. Good food coupled with speed and quality allows Zong to stay competitive amid new bars and restaurants trying to eat into its market. Speed and quality are the same things Joshua expects from his broadband Internet connection. That is why he turns to PLDT myDSL to help keep his business brisk, his ideas fresh and his restaurant at the top of the food chain.

Surf and turf

It is easy to see why his PLDT myDSL Smallbiz Micro Plan is as important to Joshua as his cleaver and wire whisk. Primarily, he uses it to manage Zong's The Fort and Alabang branches. At up to 512kbps, he can e-mail, fax and instant message his staff and suppliers easily and instantaneously. The dedicated Internet connection also allows him to stay in touch with his team even if the telephone lines are busy.

"That's why we're online all the time," exclaims Zong's very animated chef and owner Joshua. "It's a tool we use to communicate between branches. It's better that way [because it's] faster, clearer and more convenient."

However, PLDT myDSL not only fosters his booming business, it also keeps his creativity flowing like honey. Often, he logs on the Net in search of the latest culinary trends, the hottest restaurants and the most imaginative menu concepts he can incorporate in his restaurant. On one of his online steak outs, Joshua chanced upon two fab food finds that led him to a gastronomic eureka moment.

"I was going through restaurants online and I spotted this Japanese restaurant in Sydney that serves Tuna Tartare. Then I found a Mexican recipe of Mango and Tomato Salsa in another website. So I thought, what if I fuse the two and make it into a salad?" he narrates.

"That was how the Tuna Tartare and Mango Salsa was born," he concludes.

Reservations in a snap

Joshua also finds his PLDT myDSL very handy when he goes food hunting. This Swiss-educated chef treks to the far reaches of Europe and the US to seek out fantastic dishes that can satisfy his discriminating taste and enlighten his well-versed palate.

Usually, he starts out by going online to do his gastronomic research. But unlike the conventional restaurateur, he goes beyond reading the reviews, printing out the recipe and admiring the food shots. He actually books a reservation in that restaurant so he can sample the cuisine—all at the touch of a mouse button.

"Even if I have plans of going to the States two months from now, I'll make a reservation here in Manila, which is great for me," Joshua beams. "I'll make a reservation two months in advance so by the time I get there, *hindi na ako pipila*. I can get a good schedule, a good table and a great meal."

For this 28-year-old Internet savvy restaurateur, PLDT myDSL dishes out endless gastronomic and business possibilities in a delightful cyber platter. Recipes for Zong's Tuna Tartare and Mango Salsa and another inspired creation called Sausages with Blackbean Sauce will be featured in PLDT's ultimate lifestyle website PLDT myPad (www.mypad.net).

Let PLDT myDSL serve up simple, convenient and hi-velocity solutions for your business. Dial 171, log on to www.mypad.net or visit your nearest PLDT business office for details.

Philips posts third quarter growth in sales and profit

DUTCH CONGLOMERATE Philips Electronics posted third-quarter growth in both sales and net profit, surpassing analysts' expectations and saying it was on track to deliver financial targets.

Philips is among the world's top three hospital equipment makers and Europe's biggest consumer electronics producer and third largest in semiconductors. It is also the world's biggest lighting manufacturer.

Philips president and chief executive officer Gerard Kleisterlee said the company posted an increase in third-quarter net profit to 1.436 billion euros ($1.72 billion). The net profit, he said, was boosted by 1.09 billion euros ($1.31 billion) in one-off gains.

Likewise, Philips reported a 5 percent increase in sales to 7.626 billion euros.

Kleisterlee said all of Philips' main business units, except semiconductors, and global regions, showed comparable sales growth.

In a statement, Kleisterlee said, "After a slower first half-year, we are pleased to see growth across Philips has picked up in the third quarter as we improved our profitability. Thanks to the solid underlying performance during the quarter, we are on track with our financial targets and delivering on our commitments."

Kleisterlee added that Philips was "able to outperform weaker consumer markets, thanks to innovative product concepts like the new Flat TV and shaver ranges. We also saw improving results from our semiconductor business as our renewal program begins to take effect. In addition, our Medical Systems business continued to show strong revenue growth."

Firm brings out the hidden author in you

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CENTRALBOOKS' Jose Paolo (left) and Juan Carlos Sibal

THERE IS AN AUTHOR IN EVERYone, not just the professional writers.

But not everyone gets published because it takes so much money and effort to put out a book in the market.

CentralBooks was thus put up to make it more affordable for people to have their books published, and contribute to the wealth of knowledge in the Philippines.

Juan Carlos M. Sibal, CentralBooks vice president for operations, said the print on demand service was made possible by new printing machinery originally used to print law books that the company has long been selling.

"The machine has been with us for more than two years," Sibal said. "We just decided to open it up to everyone, especially the professionals."

With the printing machine, which can be likened to a giant laser printer, authors can print as few as 50 copies for the initial print run.

Traditional book publishers would require a minimum of at least 1,000 copies before they will even consider printing a manuscript because of the prohibitive cost of offset printing.

It also usually takes between three and six months to get books published the traditional way, compared to just days with the print on demand service.

Sibal added that with the new service, professors and researchers would be able to easily translate their notes or research papers into published work.

"By getting their work published, students need not depend only on foreign books or make do with photocopies," said Jose Paolo Sibal, CentralBooks vice president for finance.

CentralBooks knows the publishing business by heart as the Sibals have long been involved in publishing through Phoenix Publishing and SIBS Publishing.

CentralBooks is the latest addition to the publishing family's group of companies and will cater to the publish-on-demand market, which for the Sibals represents a huge untapped market.

CentralBooks figures show that for a book 300 pages thick, sized 6 inches by 9 inches, print cost will be P192.52 for a minimum of 100 copies.

Sibal said that since the service was introduced in June, CentralBooks has already published 20 books. Some were just for the personal use of the authors, while others are sold through CentralBooks' eight retail outlets.

One of most popular books is "Bar Blues." Written by young lawyers, it talks about what they went through as they took the bar exams. It became a handy guide to law students about to take the grueling exams.

Other titles include the inspirational "The Good News Never Told," "Medical Laws and Jurisprudence," "Handbook on Court-Annexed Mediation," and "Laws and Jurisprudence on Graft and Corruption."

Aside from printing, CentralBooks can also take care of registering the copyright, laying out the book, and even selling the book through the bookstores specializing in professional books.

"With more books out there, we hope to breathe new life into the publishing industry," Sibal said.

Will winning . . .

From page B2-4

per category. At just 10 categories, then the organizer earns a cool $1 million!

But most awards are for both fund raising and recognition. Take, for example, the Clio advertising awards in the US or the Araw Awards that accompany the Philippine Ad Congress. Every entry pays a fee that isn't exactly cheap. But participating ad agencies don't seem to be bothered and no adverse negatives are heard about the award's required entry fee. Of course there are awards where the entries do not pay; but the winners are "paid" as in the case of the most prestigious award in the world: the Nobel Prize (winners are awarded a $1M check). The Ramon Magsaysay Awards, known as the Nobel Prize of Asia, does the same thing but the check is in pesos-about P1 million. These are the "Superbrands of Awards." Their branding carries the name of their founder who is known and acknowledged for his or her life of excellence and professional and personal values.

Awards for sale?

We've received some concerned emails and texts from company heads and marketing professionals who have been receiving what look like generic form letters from awards program organizers. The letters inform them that, based on 'consumer surveys' their brands have been selected as a winner in a category. Some of these shoppers/brand/marketing award promotional campaigns then ask for a P15,000 to P50,000 award support fund/subsidy. According to one respected but skeptical marketing professor and professional who would prefer to remain anonymous, the difference is that these awards programs inform you that you have won already and to participate in the awards program and to include your brand name in the subsequent advertising and promotions, all you need to do is return the contract that accompanies the congratulatory letter together with your 'support fund' or 'subsidy.'

"What they are doing are selling awards to companies!", says the marketing professional who received several awards confirmation letters for his brand but refused to pay the award subsidy/fund that was asked of him.

We wonder what these awards organizers would say if given the chance to answer these marketing executives and company owners who feel that they are being sold these 'awards?'

Perhaps these shoppers/consumers/marketing/brand awards program heads can emulate the Ramon Magsaysay Awards or even the Clio or Araw Awards (tie up with a rich philanthropist or foundation or ask for entry fees instead of asking "winners" to pay) so that questions of whether their awards programs are legit or just moneymaking ventures that gives awards to companies as long as they are willing to pay the requested 'award support fund' will go away.

In the case of the Superbrand award, how has the Council attempted to raise the image of legitimacy of the award? Over the years, it has worked hard on this. For example, the selection of the winner is now based on multiple criteria. In Malaysia, these include the result of a consumer survey by Synovate, a reputable market survey agency. The prestigious Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award gives 400 points out of the total 1,000 points to this criterion of consumer rating of quality in the selection of a winner. So this is a critical criterion. In addition, other selection criteria are applied including "market dominance, longevity, customer loyalty, goodwill and overall market acceptance" indicators and metrics.

Now, the first part of your question asked if the Superbrand award can really help your business and promote your brand name and product? From the preceding detailed explanation, we suppose you now can appreciate that the direction of "causation" is in the reverse. It's not being a Superbrand that "causes" your business to prosper and is the means to promote your brand name and product. It's your business success and your brand building over the years and your winning promotion that "causes" your earning the Superbrand title.

So there you are. Those are your areas of consideration if you wish to be "certified" or wish to apply to win a "Superbrand Award."

Feedback at at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

Philippine
Overseas
Telecommunications
Corporation
POTC

Philippine
Communications
Satellite
Corporation
PHILCOMSAT

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LIES

It is appalling that a group whose members show no name and no face continues to publish notices wherein they claim to represent Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC) and Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat), conveniently omitting pronouncements and decisions by the courts (including the Supreme Court) that belie their claims.

From time to time, individual members of this group attempt to discredit the valid boards and management of POTC and Philcomsat, and misrepresent themselves as the supposed officers and executives of the two corporations.

For the sake of truth and to protect the interests of the valid stockholders of POTC and Philcomsat, let everyone concerned be informed of the following facts, which are supported by decisions, resolutions and orders promulgated by the courts:

1. The **Sandiganbayan**, in an order dated October 18, 2005, lifted the temporary restraining order (TRO) earlier imposed on Erlinda Bildner and Victor Africa, et al, **because the court found that the "facts" used by complainant Enrique Locsin in seeking the TRO were questionable.**

2. Enrique Locsin told the Sandiganbayan that he and other members of his group were elected to the board of POTC in August 2004 in accordance with orders issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The **Sandiganbayan**, however, found that on October 25, 2004, the Court of Appeals had already restrained the implementation of those SEC orders.

3. The **Africa-Bildner group was elected to the boards of POTC and Philcomsat in accordance with the Sandiganbayan and Supreme Court decisions**, which declared that the Republic of the Philippines owns 35 percent of the two companies and that Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MPLDC) do not have any interest in POTC and Philcomsat. On the other hand, **Locsin's proxies were from IRC and MPLDC, hence, of NO effect.**

4. The **Makati Prosecutor's Office** dismissed last September 30, 2005, the complaint for qualified theft filed by Manuel Andal, another member of the Nieto group, against Victor Africa, after the latter rejected Andal's demand for the turnover of the stock certificates evidencing Philcomsat's 81% ownership of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC). **Andal claims he is the treasurer of Philcomsat. The truth is that the Philcomsat board has elected Katrina Ponce Enrile as treasurer and she has proper custody of the PHC stock certificates.**

5. **The decisions of the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court have, in effect, established the validity of the Bildner-Africa boards and management in POTC and Philcomsat, and NO VALID STOCKHOLDER OF THE TWO FIRMS HAS QUESTIONED THEIR ELECTION.**

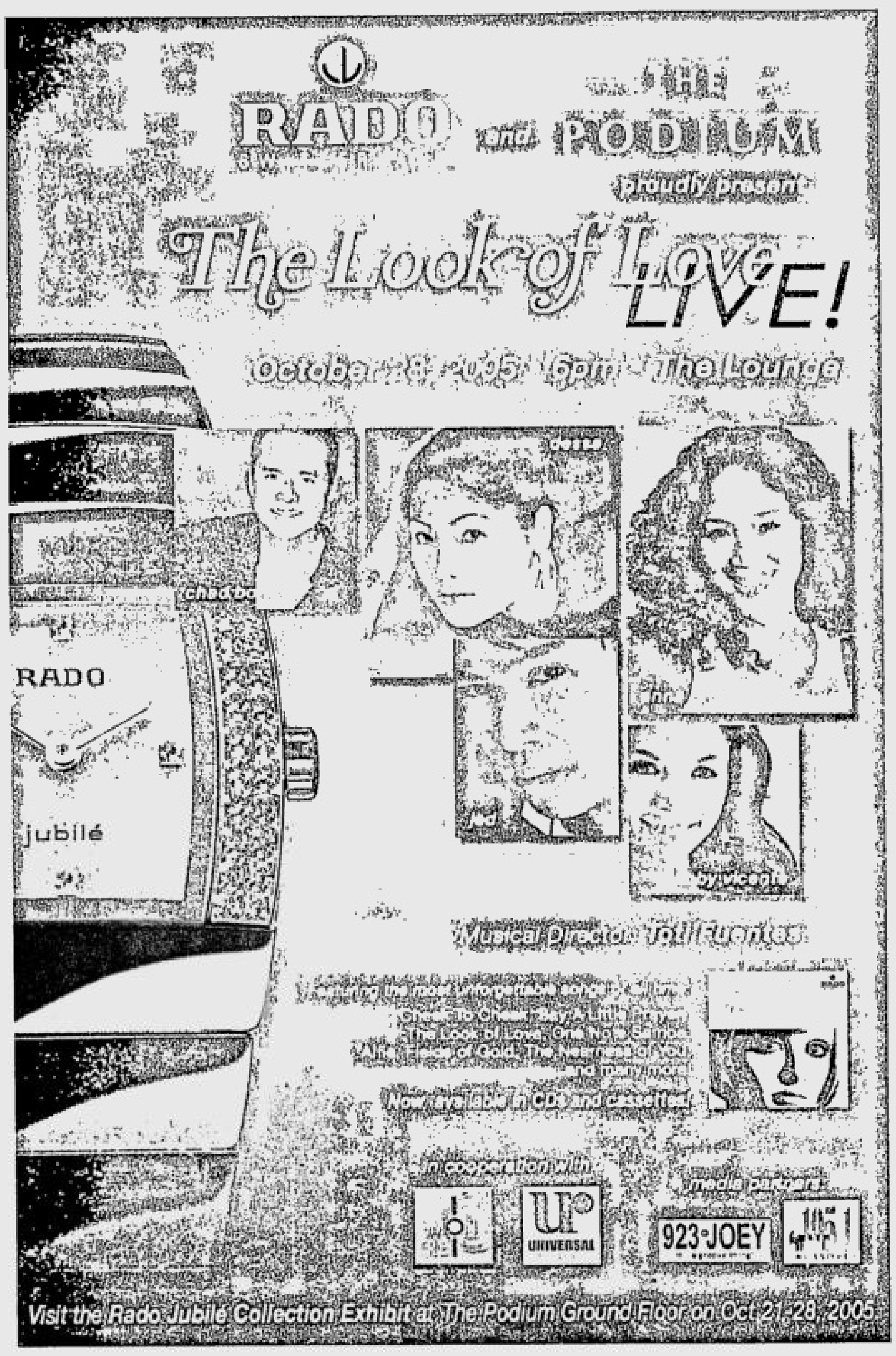
The above-mentioned facts, including court rulings, are accessible to all concerned, especially those who have transactions with POTC, Philcomsat and Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

Please be guided accordingly.

ERLINDA I. BILDNER
Chairman
POTC & Philcomsat

VICTOR V. AFRICA
President & CEO
POTC & Philcomsat

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



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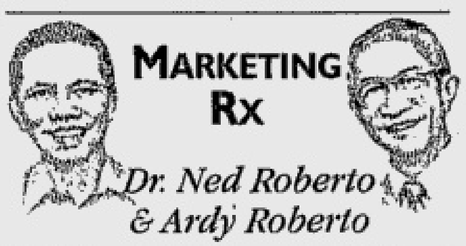
Will winning awards like 'Superbrands' et. al help promote my business?



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF "SUperbrands"? Do you think this will really help businesses to promote their names and products? What will it take to be certified or marked as a superbrand?

A: The term and "title" Superbrand is an invention of the advertising agencies. It came out of the "branding cult" that ad agencies evolved in their belief that they are "brand factories." This sets them apart from factories that manufacture the physical sensory products. In the words of the JW Thompson president, this difference is: "... fundamental. A product is something that is made in a factory; a brand is something that is bought by a customer." The "branding agency" president, Walter Lander, made the distinction in a similar way: "Products are made in the factory but brands are made in the (consumer's) mind."

This mindset has become a marketing sub-culture that is convinced and is convincing others that brands (like diamonds) are forever. Believers and advocates spread and repeat the brand message that the former United Biscuits chairman, Hector Liang, had composed: "Machines wear out. Cars rust. People die. But what lives on are the brands."

Is brand equity everlasting?

This lasting value of the brand has been termed by David Aaker in his book, "How to Build Strong Brands" as "brand equity." And the brand that has earned a strong brand equity value is naturally a "Superbrand." The term and the title have been elevated to the status of an object of worship.

But like all marketing "laws" that have exaggerated their character as "immutable," brand equity turned out to be not as immutable, and Superbrand not as everlasting and forever. The research of Roland Rust showed these not to be so. In the November 5, 2004 Biennial PANA Convention, the senior MRx-er's presentation discussed Rust's research and summarized it as showing that brands die as soon as they stop resonating the priority needs and values of the consumer. So it is the consumer that is "forever." It is not brand equity that lives on; it is "consumer equity" that does.

We decided to go into this rather long clarification and updating because of the serious misconception about brand equity and the Superbrand status. The other reason has to do with the conversion of the Superbrand status into an "award" where you may want to exercise some caution since you suggested a desire in getting it or being "certified" as one.

A group of ad agencies, marketing research and media professionals in the U.K. thought of forming The Superbrands Council at that time when the believers of the brand equity concept tipped to spread the "virus" and infected practically all marketing practitioners. The Council organized the "Oscars in Branding—The Superbrands." This is an award "to recognize excellence in branding and to promote the discipline of branding."

It is an award in several product categories including the FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) where the India Chapter of the Council gave the award to Tata Salt last year, the B2B category where the Council's Denmark Chapter gave the award to StepStone, the consumer durable category where the Council's Saudi Chapter gave it to NISSAN, etc. The Council has set up chapters in more than 40 countries.

Each year hundreds and even thousands of companies in a country where there is a Council chapter participate per category. For example, recently Ann Summers, a lingerie company, had a press release announcing that it won in England the Superbrand award in its category among 90 finalists out of more than 1,000 entries. Its press release very proudly said that "Ann Summers has joined illustrious companies such as Coca Cola and McDonald's after being voted a U.K. Superbrand."

Awards programs: legit or just moneymaking?

Because of the current proliferation of marketing awards, a good number of our marketing friends have asked: "Is this award legit?" The question actually betrays the suspicion that the award is being given out more for fund raising than for "recognition of excellence." There is little doubt that the award can be a powerful fund raising scheme. Just think of the Anne Summers press release revealing that just in its category alone there were more than 1,000 entries. If each company had to pay an 'entry' fee of say, even just $100, that would translate to $100,000 gross income

WILL/B2-

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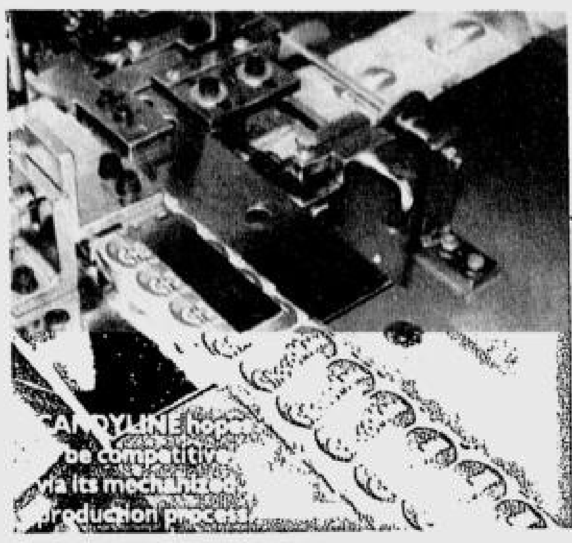
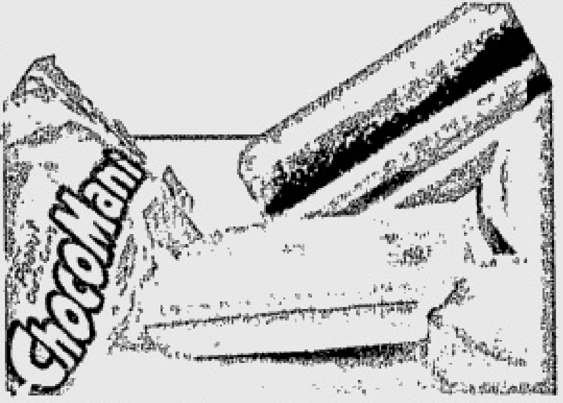
BUSINESS *Friday*



CANDYLINE hopes to be competitive via its mechanized production process

DEFYING A MARKETING MUST

Put out the ad before the product



IN THE P1 per piece market, the key is to be in the *sari-sari* stores.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING EXPERTS WILL tell you it is a must for your product to be available in the market before you advertise it.

So when Candyline Food Manufacturing Corp. approached an ad agency about their plan to launch an advertising campaign, the first thing the agency asked was whether the products were available in the market.

Their answer was 'no.'

A small debate ensued as the agency knew it would be useless to advertise if the products were not available. It was simply defying all marketing rules. But Candyline knew what it wanted and stood firm that it needed the ads to come out first.

Client won of course and a few months ago they launched the funky ad of ChocoMani. ChocoMani defines itself as a peanut chocolate candy. It tastes, feels and looks like the more known brand of Chocnut.

ChocoMani has been in the market for six years but is largely distributed in the provinces. Richard T. Chua of Candyline says Metro Manila supermarkets and groceries initially did not want to carry ChocoMani because it was not as known as the two more popular brands in the same category.

Chua says ChocoMani and the other brands belong to the "piso-piso" market which means it costs P1 a piece and is largely distributed in *sari-sari* stores.

Chua explains that in the "*piso-piso*" segment, the key to success is for all the *sari-sari* stores to carry your product.

"If you're in the *sari-sari* stores, you're made," says Chua. This is because in the "*piso-piso*" segment, the margins are small so the makers go after the volume of sales. There are over 600,000 *sari-sari* stores in the country so if a product is carried by most of these, profits are assured.

Chua knew the advertising they invested in would result in call orders for ChocoMani. Which happened. Soon after the ads came out, stores and supermarkets called them asking to carry their products.

Chua explained their decision to invest in advertising was due to the realization of how important branding is. But Candyline invested not just in advertising.

Six years ago, the firm invested in new machines, a new factory, and new packaging for its peanut chocolate candy.

The owners knew they could not find a machine for the manufacturing of their intended product so they had the machines custom-made. New packaging materials were sourced out to make sure that the product gets enough attention and at the same time have ample protection.

Chua says it is this production process that differentiates them from competitors.

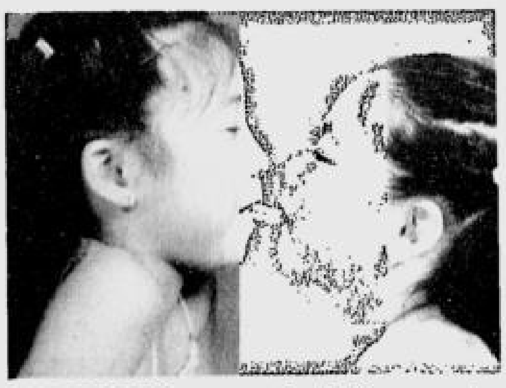
When ChocoMani was being developed, the makers knew packaging would play a major role. So they invested on proper packaging for their product.

There are two variants of ChocoMani—the bar and the coin.

Each piece of ChocoMani is machine-packed in foil and then in semi-permeable plastic. Machine packing lessens the human handling of the products and decreases the chance for contamination.

ChocoMani coins are pillow-packed meaning they are placed in individual sealed plastic containers. Part of the intention of the pillow-packing is to ensure the candy maintains its shape. Packing the product in an extra layer of plastic has dramatically increased its shelf life. This is because the plastic maintains the products' integrity and prevents physical and biochemical deterioration.

It is these steps that Candyline hopes will make a consumer buy their product instead of the other.



CHOCOMANI tastes and looks like a popular brand

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Photo may vary from actual unit.

The Kia Picanto–now available!

The highly respected ADAC (Allgemeiner Deutsche Automobil Club) confirms that the Picanto 1.1 LX is the most economical car in Europe outperforming all others in its class delivering unbelievable fuel economy of up to 26 km* to a liter. Behold its stylish design inside and out. Be awed by its MPV-style utility. So go ahead. Make those trips, see the sights, enjoy your [illegible]. And find out why the Kia Picanto is the fastest-selling car in Europe.

picanto

*Based on Kia Motors factory testing by manual transmission [illegible]

METRO MANILA: KIA COMMONWEALTH (PRINCE MOTOR CORP.) Tels. 951-22-01 to 09; 951-29-30 • KIA MAKATI (ABBA MOTORS, INC.) Tels. 817-84-16 to 17; 817-84-06; 817-84-21 • KIA MANDALUYONG (SIGNET DISTRIBUTORS, INC.) Tels. 531-46-31 to 36; 531-46-32; 531-44-24 • KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.) Tels. 682-85-30 to 31; 682-85-80 • KIA NEW MANILA (WHEELS, INC.) Tels. 722-09-32 to 34 • KIA PASAY (ALPHA PHILMOTOR SALES CORP.) Tels. 852-15-52 to 58; 854-50-36 • KIA MOTORS QUEZON AVENUE (FEMAC MARKETING, INC.) Tels. 711-21-04; 711-92-06; 742-58-26; 412-00-34 • KIA QUIRINO AVENUE (M3 MARTI UNLIMITED, INC.) Tels. 564-78-72; 564-76-36; 564-76-19 • LUZON: KIA BATANGAS (BATANGAS-LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.) Tels. (043) 778-42-14 to 16; (043) 318-03-45 • KIA CAVITE (AREZA MOTOR SALES) Tels. 529-88-63; (046) 417-72-71 • KIA DAGUPAN (METRO-DAGUPAN AUTOCENTER, INC.) Tels. (075) 522-88-05 to 06; 517-22-49; 517-50-48 • KIA LA UNION (AMIANAN AUTOCENTER AND INDUSTRIES) Tels. (072) 712-88-81 to 82; 712-88-88 • KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.) Tels. (045) 961-14-65 to 66; 961-39-26 • VISAYAS & MINDANAO: KIA CAGAYAN DE ORO (STERLING MOTORS CORP.) Tels. (088) 855-55-00; 855-61-00 • KIA CEBU (GATEWAY MOTORS CORP.) Tels. (032) 344-38-15; 344-36-65; 346-72-89 • KIA DAVAO (RS AUTOSPHERE CORP.) Tels. (082) 234-00-57 to 58; 234-24-34 • KIA DIPOLOG (WESTERN MINDANAO AUTOMOTIVE CORP.) Tels. (065) 212-28-65; 212-82-30; 212-58-97 • KIA DUMAGUETE (CROWN AUTOCENTER) Tels. (035) 419-83-88; 225-26-26 • KIA ILOILO (METRO ILOILO AUTOCENTER, INC.) Tels. (033) 329-22-22; 329-52-57 • KIA BACOLOD (Branch: METRO ILOILO AUTOCENTER, INC.) Tel. (034) 434-60-79 • KIA ORMOC (EBR 4-WHEEL CENTER) Tels. (053) 561-64-41; 225-91-09; 561-02-63

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Creative marketing maneuvers keep firm healthy

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE IN INTERnational marketing of consumer goods and over two decades of preventive health care practice proved invaluable to Albert MG Garcia.

GARCIA

His professional background equipped him with the skills necessary to carry out his duties as President and CEO of Garsworth Marketing Inc., a company involved in the marketing of health food products. He is responsible for the creation and marketing of its flagship product, the C-Lium Fibre brand introduced in December 2001 as the first fibre supplement in the market. Mr. C-Lium, as he is now referred to, is the brains behind the innovative marketing maneuvers that keeps the brand the market leader in a growing industry that has seen the emergence of several competitors.

Of foremost challenge was to getting the message across that C-Lium Fibre delivers according to its promise—that it will assist in eliminating constipation naturally within 3 to 5 days, regulate the digestive system and assist in alleviating numerous digestive disorders.

The brand's hold to the claim of promoting good health naturally is supported by the fact that C-Lium is a natural food fiber supplement made from psyllium fibre.

"To this day, it is the only all natural and organic fiber supplement with no preservatives, artificial flavorings, sweeteners, additives and extenders," explains Garcia who shares that C-Lium Fibre has so far received eleven awards from consumer groups and industry associations citing it as an outstanding natural and organic fiber supplement.

Rather than introduce an artificial flavored variant that "sensitive" users may find easier to take, he instead came up with another industry first by producing capsules as an additional line to the original C-Lium Fibre powdered mix. On the suggestion of doctors, capsules were introduced for greater patient compliance as doctors wanted to ensure that patients took their medication without any excuse, says Garcia.

Another innovation is the C-Lium Fibre Travel Pack. "The travel pack is a consequence of demand by people who travel constantly like pilots and flight crews and wanted a more convenient way to bring their C-Lium Fibre along."

Garcia took efforts to create consumer awareness for the brand and its important role in digestive health. C-Lium Fibre participates in health food expositions, medical conventions and health forums, and conducts free seminars which allow opportunities for Garcia to promote C-Lium as well as to educate the public on the benefits of increasing fibre intake for a healthier stomach.

C-Lium Fibre's benefits are communicated even in the product packaging that is designed in-house by Garsworth Marketing. The free Trial Packs, acknowledged by Garcia as a critical marketing tool for both the consumer and medical profession aimed at encouraging first time users, come in designs each suggestive of a particular health benefit. One shows a heart to communicate that C-Lium Fibre is a natural fat absorber that helps reduce the risk of heart disease by removing cholesterol. The Thinking Man design, on the other hand, is both an amusing and appropriate way to convey the product's ability to help maintain bowel regularity and fight constipation.

He also saw to it that the product was easily accessible to consumers. C-Lium Fibre is available in Mercury Drugstores nationwide, Watsons and other pharmacy chains, and more than 2,500 independent drugstores nationally.

"Though the ingredients for C-Lium Fibre are imported, the marketing plan was conceived, conceptualized and implemented in the Philippines by Filipinos," says Garcia. "All packaging, promotional and advertising materials were developed and executed in house by Garsworth Marketing, Inc. In many ways, this is a testament to the Filipinos' marketing capacity to add multiple value to a product."

Mr. C-Lium's mission is to naturally eliminate constipation from the Philippines. Unfortunately, he admits inability to fix political constipation.

More than just a printer

By Michelle V. Remo

HONG KONG—THE WORD "EPSON" is almost synonymous to "printer."

Being the world's No. 1 seller of dot-matrix printers and enjoying the No. 2 spot in the sale of inkjet printers, Seiko Epson Corp. has gained much from being identified by consumers globally as a leading printer maker.

But not known to many, Epson has a wide variety of technology products. The LCDs (liquid crystal displays) in many cellular phones like Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Motorolla are manufactured by Epson. The Japan-based company is also the world's leading distributor of projectors, enjoying a significant 60-percent market share.

While being popularly known as the king of printers has been a boon to its revenue-generation efforts, Epson is faced with the tough challenge of instilling in the minds of consumers that it is more than just a printer company. Realizing the financial benefits of gaining popularity in other technology areas other than printers, Epson has finally decided to take on the challenge.

"How do we make people realize that we are not just a printer company is what the company wants to seriously work on," said Toshio Kimura, executive vice president of Epson, during the company's business and technology forum held here in September.

Kimura said one way to take on the challenge was for Epson to adopt a marketing tagline that will encompass all imaging and other technology products—printers, projectors, LCDs, etc. The company therefore came up with the tagline, "Exceed Your Vision."

"We hope our tagline will help explain to people that we are not merely a printer maker but an imaging company," Kimura said. "The tagline means that one has the potential to create and do something that is beyond his or her vision by using Epson products," the company executive added.

Kimura said Epson wants to become widely known for being an "imaging" company that focuses on three Is: imaging on paper (through printers), imaging on screen (through its projectors), and imaging on displays (through its LCDs).

To actualize the tagline of "Exceed Your Vision," Kimura said, Epson invests a significant portion of its revenues—at least 6 percent every year—in research and development to create imaging and technology products that consumers never imagined to be available in the market.

This year, Epson has finished constructing a research and development facility in Hirooka, Japan. Kimura said Espon put a lot of premium on research and development, believing that being able to continually innovate products that will help in consumers' technological progress is a vital factor in thriving in the stiffly competitive world of technology marketing.

In the printer segment, Epson officials announced that the company was preparing for the market distribution of television printers in the next few years. Television printer is a machine that will allow people to print on paper whatever images aired on television.

Epson officials said television printers could soon become a popular advertising and marketing tool for companies, given its capability to make consumers more informed about a product being advertised. Currently, Epson officials explained, vital information (like contact numbers and prices) from some television commercials are missed out by viewers because TV commercials are fleeting. With television printers, viewers interested in buying products or services advertised can simply print the TV ad to take note of the details.

But Epson officials said the commercialization of television printers would depend on the link-up and agreement among four parties, including the printer maker, the television stations, the content providers, and television makers. They said the company is also in the process of studying the legal issues, such as on intellectual property, entailed in the marketing of television printers.

While the marketing of television printers is still being worked out by Epson, company officials said the product is something worth waiting for.

Aside from television printers, Epson is preparing for the marketing of other technology products that "exceeds one's vision" in the next few years. Company officials said other products worth waiting for are LED (light emitting diode) projectors, whose size is small enough to fit one's palm, and electronic paper. E-paper are electronic gadgets, like cellular phones, that are flexible like paper but whose material is strong enough to avoid being torn.

"Epson is committed in the continuous development of new technology. With the new products, we intend to really exceed your vision," Kimura said.

Periquet talks on entrepreneurial development

ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVOCATE ANna Marie Periquet was selected as the Asian speaker on entrepreneurial development in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific region during the 25th Natinal Annual Conference of the Federation of Young Entrepreneurs Group held recently in Aichi, Japan.

In her speech, Periquet touched on the growing regional interest in entrepreneurship as evidenced by the warm reception of the "Santiago Agenda on Entrepreneurship" during the 11th APEC Ministerial Meeting of SME's in Chile last year. The agenda brought up the need to share the experiences of APEC member economies to create a healthy business environment for SMEs in the region. It also called for public sector intervention to overcome economic instability, imbalances between urban and rural development, disadvantages based on ethnicity and gender inequity.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

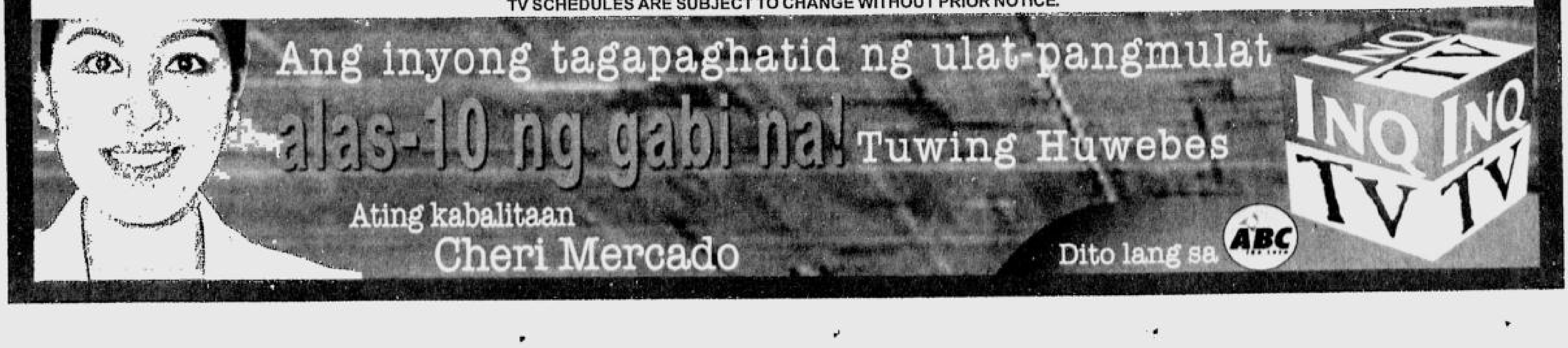
Friday, October 28, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Real Stories	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Boarding House		The OC		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								The Batman	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Buzzworthy	Mush		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Get Hitched	Get Spotted	Diyes		Wade Robson Project	Trippin	Pop Up	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05		Motorsport Asia	MLB World Series '05							Sportscenter Asia	MLB World Series '05						
Solar Sports			WTA 2005				World Champ '05 Beach Volleyball					Sports Desk	Sports Desk	US 9-Ball Open 2005				NBA TV Daily	Sports Desk
Sports Plus				NFL 2005						World's Greatest Auto Shows		Monster Jam		FMX		Inside the PGA	Funai Classic Highlights		Chrysler Championship Day 2
Cinemax				Among Thieves			Fierce Creatures			Beverly Hills Cop (7:15 PM)				Threshold			Against The Ropes		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Judging Amy		Spin			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery				The Most Extreme		American Chopper						Crime Night	
National Geographic		Harem Conspiracy		Tomb Robbers		Royal Mummy		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster			
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo Rescue	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Samurai Jack	Time Squad	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues! What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest			Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		Angel		Friends	Karen Sisco
AXN		24		24		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season II)		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	The Replacement Killers				I Still Know What You Did Last Summer	
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show						Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Perfect Strangers (3:15 PM)			The Matrix Revolutions					Jaws 2				The Italian Job				Once Upon A Time In Mexico	
Star Movies	Million Dollar Murder (2:20 PM)			Far From Heaven			Heart Of The Storm (5:45 PM)			A Different Loyalty				Cold Mountain					The Gathering
Cinema One		Viva Santiago				Ms. Dolora X				Matinik Na Bading Mga Syokeng Bulong				Wanted Alex San Diego				Alapaap	
EWTN	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



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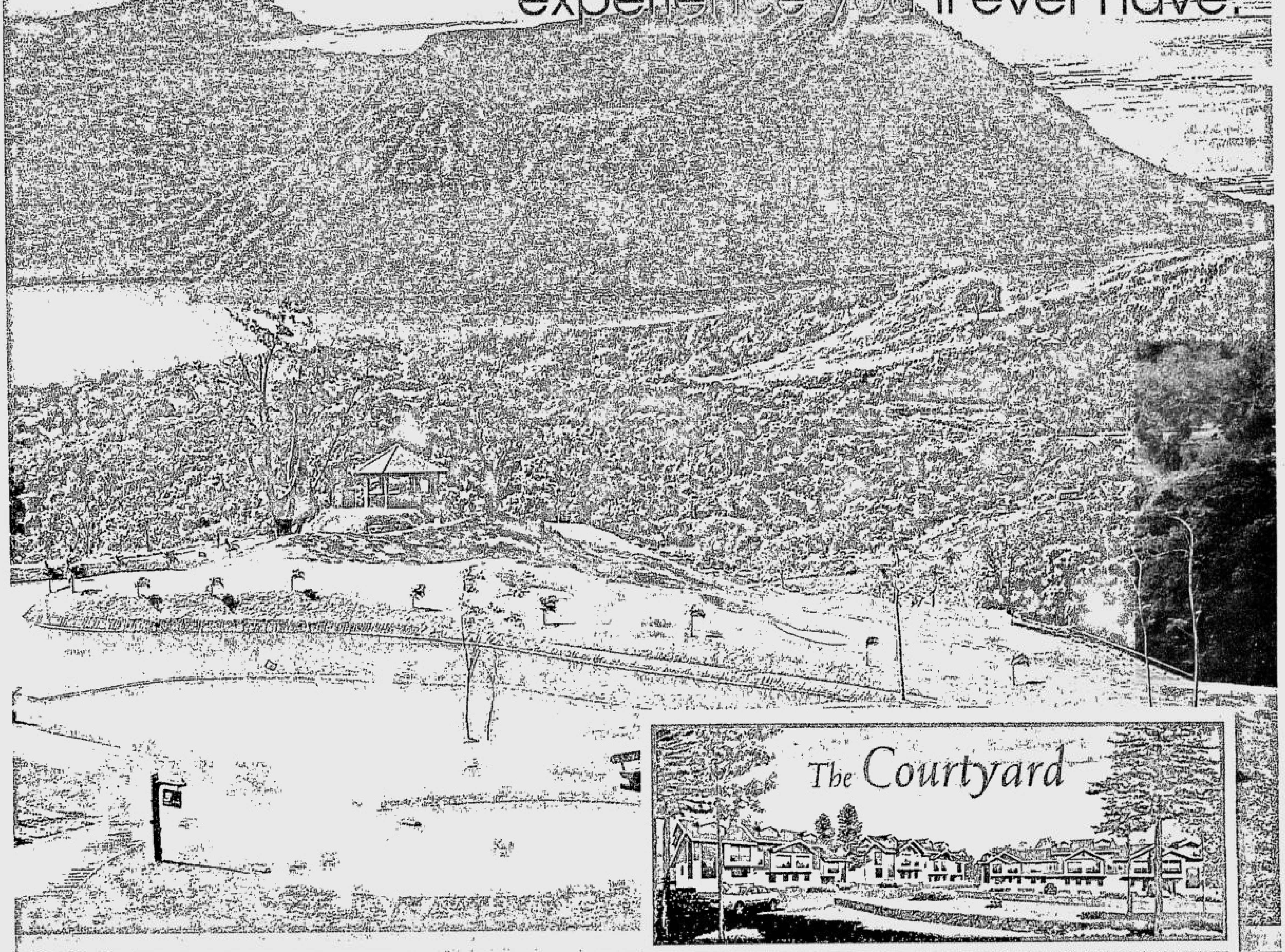

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Just minutes away from Cebu City, there's an old lighthouse that's been literally drawing ships and good fortune to Cebu. Soon, that same lighthouse will be drawing good neighbors to it as well. Because around that century-old beacon will rise a premier seaside community, one of only a handful of neighborhoods around the world with its own functioning lighthouse.

Aptly named after the Spanish word for mooring rope, Amara will be your family's haven, a safe harbor where your loved ones can bloom and grow, surrounded by nature and the values that nurture families.

Coffee, tea or sea.

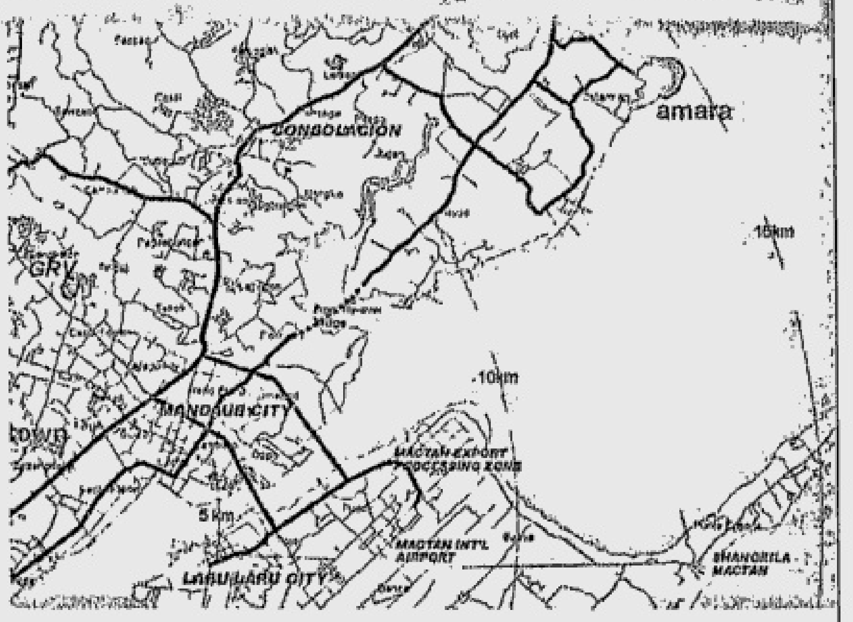
Already blessed by nature, Amara will likewise benefit from master planning by Ayala Land, one of the country's most prestigious and reputable developers.

An Esplanade will wind its way round the community to give everyone an unobstructed view of the sea. Amara will be dotted with gazebos, parks and playgrounds. And its centerpiece clubhouse will have an infinity pool, seaside decks and a beach bar to take in as much of the sea's majesty as possible.

Future phases will also feature a sports and recreational center with not just the usual amenities but also a beach volleyball court and a gym facing a spectacular view. There will be the North Pier with a promenade and fishing deck, the South Beach Park and picnic grounds, a retail strip, and a school.

Know always where home is.

Know that Amara's constant light is your guide home. Awake every morning renewed by the sea. Watch the sparkle of stars and distant ships when evening falls. Know always that the light that has beckoned ships home to port for the last hundred years now also lights your way to haven, harbor, and home.



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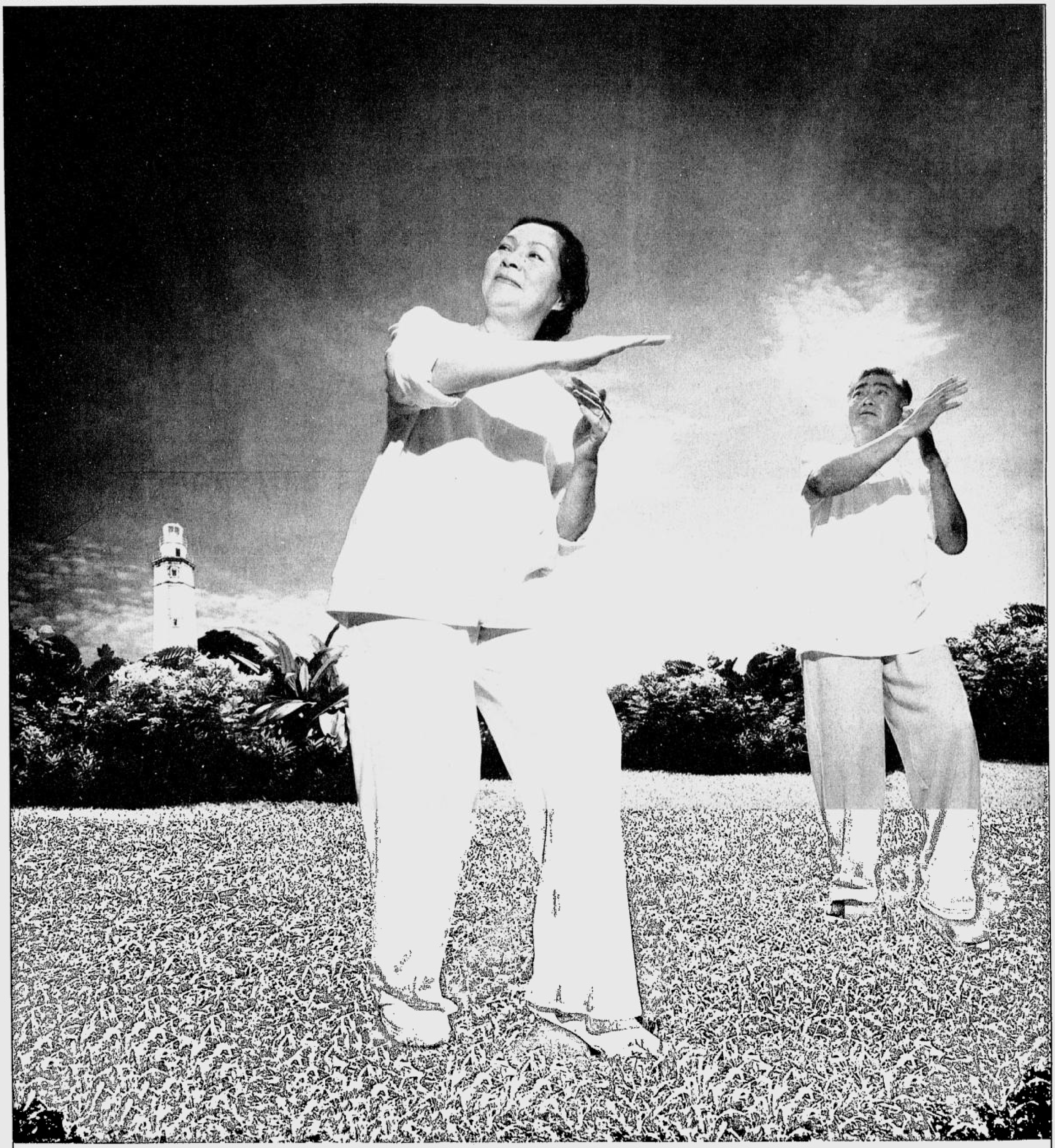

Know always where the light glows in constant harmony with the sea.

Like the light that has guided ships to port for a hundred years, Amara rises like a beacon. One of the very few lighthouse communities in the world and the first in the country, Amara is a perfect balance between the elements of nature and master-planned design. A premier Ayala seaside community inspired by the values that nurture families shall complement what nature has carved out of land and sea.

Nestled in a breezy bluff with the mountains of Cebu behind, Amara is a safe haven protected by Mactan Island to the east with the Camotes Sea flowing gently through the channel from the north. Amara's naturally beautiful environment will be enhanced with more than the usual facilities and amenities designed to maximize its topography. Here, there will be a place for everyone, young and old, for stargazing, jogging, meditating, reading a book by the sea, taking a nap on a hammock, enjoying a cup of coffee as the sun rises, bonding with the family in a picnic or swimming under a moonlit sky. The possibilities are as wide as the grand vista surrounding Amara. This is a place like no other to excite the senses and exalt the soul.

Amara

An AYALA Community

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OUT of the box: Special Fashion & Beauty sections /E & F

LIFESTYLE

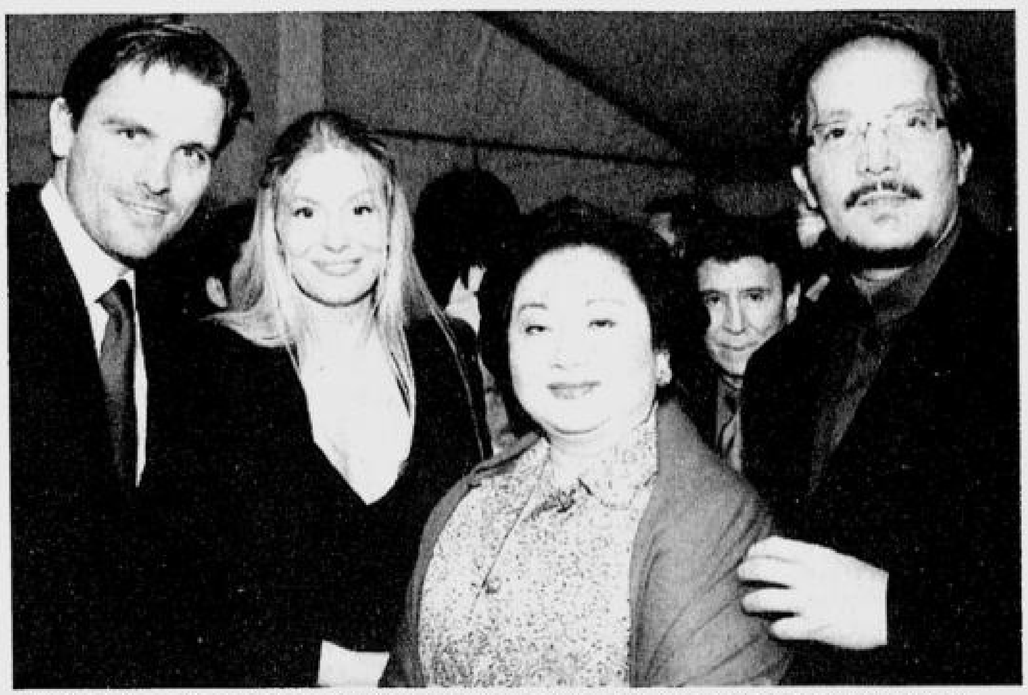
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

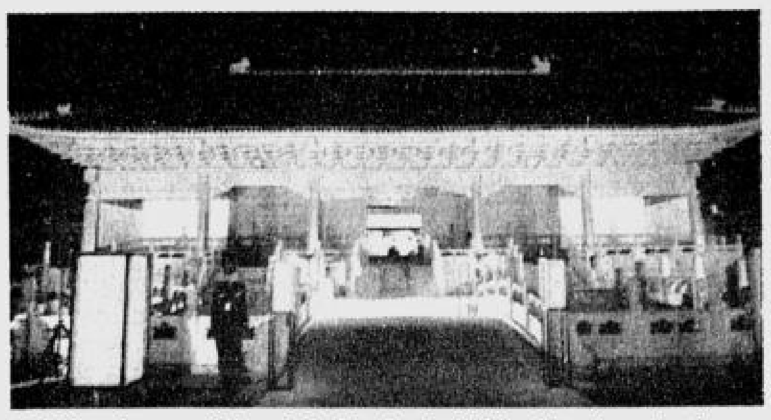
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Ferragamo stages show in the Forbidden City

Milestone event in Beijing reveals a parade of black-and-cream blends, with highlights of purple. Sorry, leftists, but there are no Mao reds


NEDY Tantoco (second from right) and Patrick Jacinto with James Ferragamo and his wife


TAI Miao Ancestral Temple inside the Forbidden City, lit up for the Ferragamo show

PHOTOS: ALEX VAN HAGEEN

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE NEVER THOUGHT we'd see the day when a luxurious fashion show would unfold right under Chairman Mao's nose. But it happened last week in the historic Forbidden City in Beijing, where Ferragamo presented its 2006 Spring/Summer Ready-to-Wear collections—perhaps the first and, it is said, the last time the Forbidden City would be used as a fashion show venue.

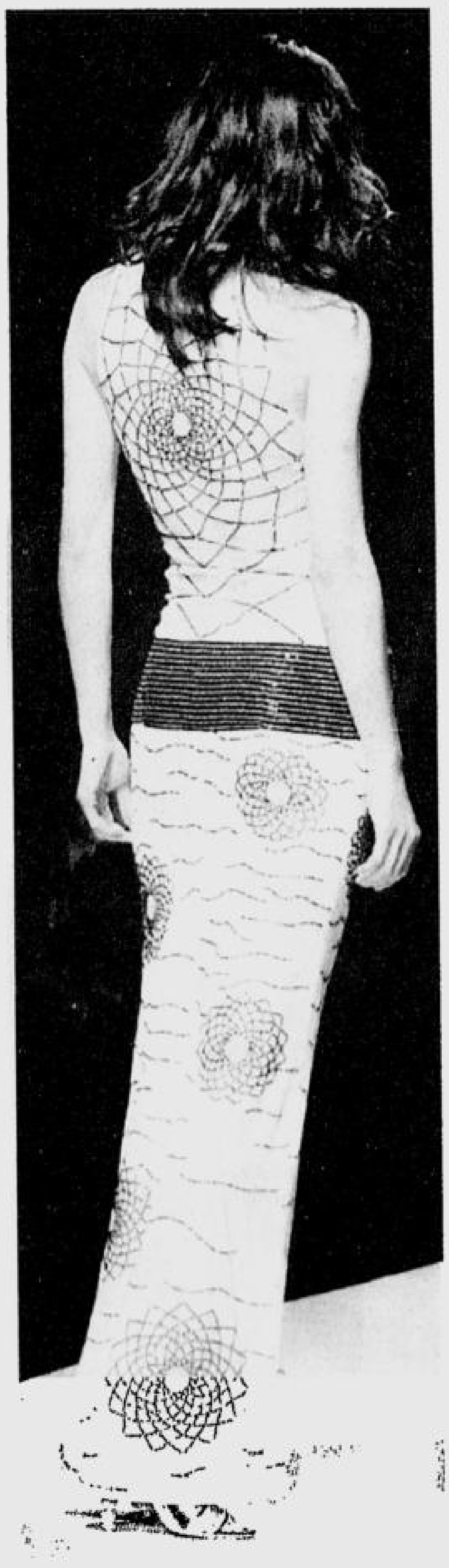
"An Evening with Ferragamo-Charity Fashion Party," celebrated the Ferragamo's 10th year in Beijing (the fashion house was one of the first luxury brands to open a store in China when the communist bosses relaxed the ban on capitalism). The milestone event was mounted with the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped, an independent charity organization to help disabled children.

Imagine China's police troops standing at the Tai Miao Ancestral Temple before a panoramic video of Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and other Hollywood goddesses who wore **Salvatore Ferragamo's** shoes—this historic juxtaposition was enough to send shivers down the spine.

To someone like us who lived through the "First Quarter Storm" and grew up reading Mao's Red Book and learning about his Cultural Revolution, the experience was unforgettable, almost weird. The uniformed guards, their posture stiff and their expression stern, formed a phalanx, this time not against a militant mob, but against the horde of jostling fashion photographers.

The sight triggered in us an incredible sense of irony. If only our fellow activists of the '70s could see it now: the ideological rantings of our political youth supplanted by—of all things, fashion. And, we must admit, the presence of the guards lent unique-

FERRAGAMO/ C4


SPIDER web print in black-and-cream theme

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THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER

RAYMOND Bagatsing and Rudolf Yaptinchay

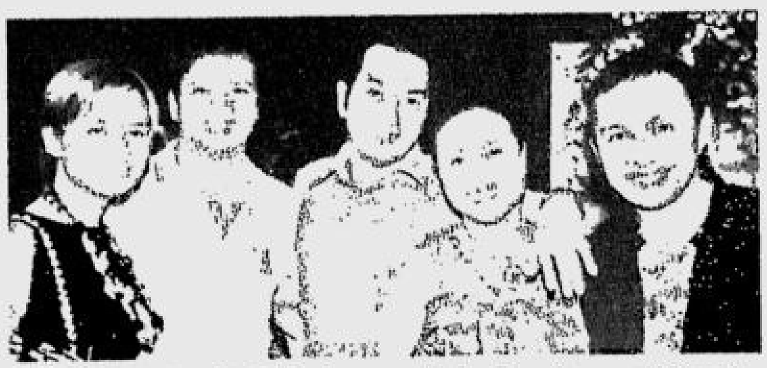
SOUTHERN gent JM Rodriguez with hot singer Rachel Alejandro

VAVAN Vallenia and Vina Morales

LUSCIOUS Rachel Lobangco and mega DJ Manolet Dario

LOVE IS IN THE AIR. ADB's Antonio Garcia and attractive Karen Grupp

ARTISTIC PAIR. Painter Ramon Diaz and Galleria Duemila curator Silvana Ancellotti D.


MISS with the four Bs Celine Lopez, with her favorite escort Marcel Crespo; super couple Norman and Astrud Crisologo, and DJ Montano

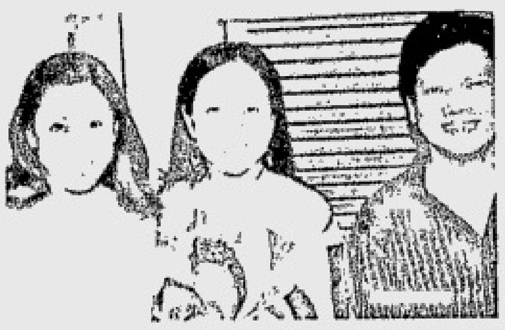
GUAPO John Calles, gorgeous sisters Erika and Alex Escat, and good-lookers Fernando Gonzalez and Carlos Escat

PEPPER Teehankee, Sally Yates, Tony Bambroffe, *moi* and hotshot Andy Yates

Resto-bar gets new high at 3

TOP architect and interior designer Anton Mendoza, renowned cardiologist Dr. Randy Francisco and wife, Tatler's top gal Irene Martel F.

HOT couple Edwin and Digna Arce of Arce Dairy Ice Cream, with businessman and polo player Vince Bitong and wife, Fila's Ana Abad Santos Bitong


HOSTESS Cecille Ysmael, Gina Bello and Asian Spirit bigwig Noel Oñate

DR. JOEL Mendez, INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist Kinny Salas and Stef Cabal

JR Isaac, Aurora Mangubat and Myrza Sison

INQUIRER Lifestyle's Jenni Epperson, popular John Crespo, Anton Mendoza and Leica Carpo

THE FANCY CROWD TROOPED TO the upscale Nuvo Restaurant and Wine Bar at Greenbelt to celebrate the smashing third anniversary of Nuvo, *palanggas*. As always, king of the nightlife **Louie Ysmael**, together with his eye-catching wife and gourmand **Cecil Chang**, threw a bash that had the guests' adrenaline soaring higher with every drink they downed.

The outdoor area (courtesy of Moet & Chandon, no less) was elegantly decorated with white drapes, flowers and a champagne glass tower as centerpiece. High-class entertainment was provided by the gorgeous lounge singer, **Jelly Mateo**, who sang jazz favorites which all the invitees could relate to, dahlings.

Nuvo's renowned canapés were served endlessly. The bar served Johnnie Walker, Jack Daniel's Jagermeister, Amarula, Skyy Vodka, Two Oceans, Absolut Vodka and Remy Martin.

Gorgeous "it" gals in the party circuit included **Tina Tinio**, **Gina Bello**, **Vina Morales**, **Christine San Diego**, **Celine Lopez**, **Karen Grupp**, gorgeous **Alex Escat**; **Becky Garcia**, who is getting married soon; slim **Myrza Sison**; **Jenni Epperson**; vivacious **Ines Cabarus**; **Lilo Gutierrez**; **Lea Navarro**; and designing sisters **Juliet** and **Mimi Tan**.

Where the gals are, there the dudes will surely be also, such as **Elian Habayeb**; banker and Asian Spirit CEO **Noel Oñate**; PR man **Donnie Ramirez**; young publisher **Paolo Martel**; **Richie Navarro**; young PR gent **GP Reyes**; ace designer **Rhett Eala**; **Karl Ty**; **Tony Herbosa**; soon-to-wed **Paolo Prieto**; fun **JR Isaac**; good-looking **Raymond Bagatsing** and **Victor Neri**, who were chatting with **Rudolph Yaptinchay**; gent-of-all-seasons **DJ Montano**; and **Pepper Teehankee**.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Married couples were also seen partying: my favorite Arce Dairy Ice Cream couple, **Edwin** and eye-catching **Digna Arce**; **Manolet Dario** and sultry **Rachel Lobangco**; business tycoon **Peng P. de T.** and his wife, party gal **Vickie Perez de Tagle**; **Vince** and **Ana Bitong**; painter **Ramon Diaz** and Galleria Duemila curator **Silvana Diaz**; and beautiful couple **Norman** and **Astrud Crisologo**.

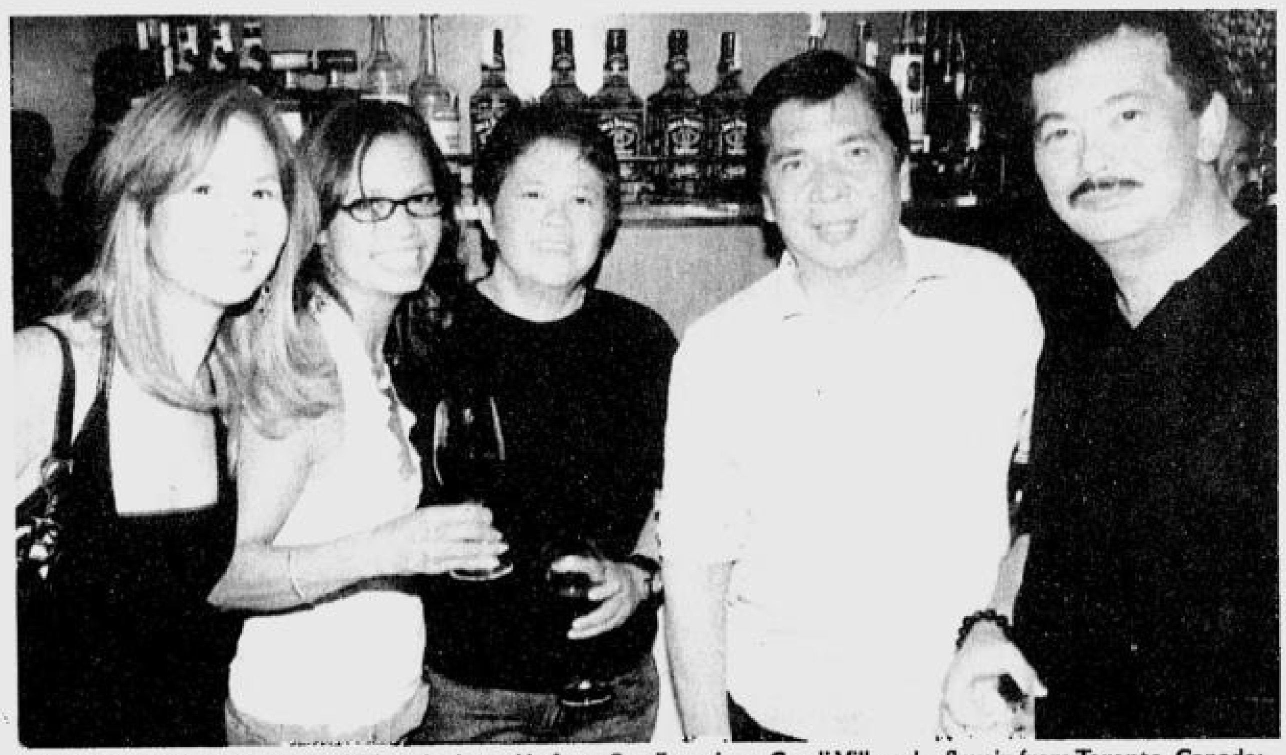
Extremely pleased was Louie Y. when I congratulated him for another awesome year for Nuvo, *palanggas*.

Kiehl's gig

That in-demand cult cosmetic brand, Kiehl's Since 1851, has been generating a buzz since its arrival in Manila. It has been hosting several intimate and unique get-togethers around town lately. No complaints at all, *palanggas*, especially from beauty junkies like *moi*!

Kiehl's Since 1851 is best known as a New York brand. Young socialite **Tina Tinio** is the brand manager here in Manila and she has organized special gatherings to drum up the arrival.

Kiehl's Philippines recently hosted the Manila visit of **Cammie Cannella**, assistant vice president of Global Education Development and Kiehl's official spokesperson. She spoke at the People's Palace and was given a reception at the chic Je Suis Gourmand Restaurant at The Fort where Filipino hospitality and French sophistication meet and merge, dahlings.


VICKIE Perez de Tagle; Evelyn Villa, who jetted in from San Francisco; Cordi Villa, who flew in from Toronto, Canada; host Louie Ysmael and business tycoon Peng Perez de Tagle

Hosting the superb dinner along with Tinio were L'Oreal's **David Ennes**, **Vicky Encarnacion**, junior product manager **Dione Cotoco**, and international marketing manager **Patricia Rodrigo**. The hip guests couldn't get enough of the excellent French dishes.

Kiehl's is also supporter of this year's Southeast Asian Games equestrian team. Kiehl's hosted a sendoff lunch for the team before it left for the World Cup Series in Malaysia in a run-up to the games next month. In attendance were **Toni Leviste**, **Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski**, **Joker Arroyo**, **Jones Lanza**, and event organizer **Mitos Belofsky**.

Green reunion

"De La Salle, I'm rooting for you." That song is familiar to a die-hard La Sallites like *moi*.

It was the song during the congress at the cool Camp John Hay in Baguio City of De La Salle Alumni Association.

Alumni came in full force at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center.

DLSAA president **José Tanjuatco** and CJH head **Robert John Sobrepeña** were *trés* visible, making absolutely sure that the happening was a success, *palanggas*.

Since the congress was held in Baguio, the DLSAA World Congress Golf Tournament was held at John Hay's excellent golf course. Everybody competed in the spirit of sportsmanship, *natch*.

And the champion was **Larry Tojino**, who got tons of applause and whistles during the fun awarding night. It was a fitting end to a congress which saw cool La Sallites having a great time at the postcard-perfect Camp John Hay, *palanggas*.

PAULO Martel and pretty-pretty Cristina Villanueva with soon-to-wed Audrey Tan and popular Rep. Miguel Zubiri

LITO Tanjuatco and CJH COO Frederico Alquiros

REP. Mauricio Domogan (second from left) gets a plaque of appreciation from DLSAA organizers for his participation in the 5th World Congress.

KIEHL'S brand manager Tina Tinio and L'Oreal's hotshot Philippine marketing director, *trés charmant* David Enner

DODOT and Mikee Jaworski at the Kiehl's launch

L'OREAL luxury product division GM Vicky Encarnacion and Kiehl's international marketing manager from New York Patricia Rodrigo

SHU Uemura's rah rah team—makeup artist Jay Mayuga and senior product manager Tessa Dragon

Comics lectures Oct. 29-30

VETERAN UNITED STATES-BASED TALENT agent and writer David Campiti and top Filipino comic-book artists Carlo Pagulayan ("X-men," "Fantastic Four," "Namor," "Emma Frost" and "Elektra"), Wilson Tortosa ("BOTP," "Tomb Raider," "Jade" and "City of Heroes"), and Rain Beredo ("Spider-Man," "Hulk" and "Maze") will be the lecturers at the annual Comics and Manga Creation Seminar, 10 a.m., Oct. 29-30, at Megatrade Seminar Hall B, SM Megamall. The two-day seminar is hosted by Glass House Graphics Asia (GHG Asia) and Studio Sakka. Seminar fee is P1,000. Tickets are available at Comic Quest SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and Festival Mall Alabang; and Druids in Gateway Mall and Magallanes. Call 9125028, 0919-8436312 or 0916-6458660. Visit www.glasshousegraphics.com

GOINGS ON

EXHIBIT. The Prayer Art Exhibit featuring over 100 paintings by 22 artists ends tomorrow, Oct. 29. The exhibit is at Elim Center for Renewal, 51 10th St., Rolling Hills Village, New Manila, Quezon City. The show, with the theme Prayer, will benefit Springs Foundation, Inc. Featured artists include Remy Boquiren, Jess Evangelista, Dondon Nakar, Nel Paguinto, Sherwin Tan and Arlene Villaber. The exhibit is part of the ongoing Excellence Conference 2005.

EXHIBIT. Shangri-La Plaza and Baile Foundation will open their annual exhibit-sale Nov. 10. "Samu't Saring Pasko" will open at the Grand Atrium, 2/L. The exhibit on the 3/L is open until Nov. 24. Proceeds will go to Baile Foundation's Saliksik Awards.

RAFFLE PROMO. Goodwill Bookstore's "Glitter Glitter, You're a Winner" raffle promo runs until Dec. 31. For every P1,000 single receipt purchase of books, school supplies, novelty and gift items, a shopper gets one raffle coupon. Prizes include jewelry by Miladay and Philippe Charriol, timepieces and pens from Mont Blanc, and gift certificates from Goodwill. Grand draw is on Jan. 7, 2006 at Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

HOMECOMING. THE Maryknoll-Miriam grand homecoming will be held Nov. 19, at the newly refurbished Marian auditorium. The event is dubbed "MAD! (Absolutely Making a Difference)." Call 4260170 or 5805400 local 1187.

ALUMNI RECEPTION. The Embassy of Canada is inviting Filipinos who studied, trained or graduated in Canada to a networking reception on Nov. 9, in Makati City. The reception is part of the Embassy's continuing efforts to reach out to Filipinos who may wish to reinforce their links with Canada, and build up networks in the country.

BAZAAR EXPO. Worldbex Services International presents the fifth World Bazaar Festival 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays, and until 12 midnight on weekends, Dec. 8-16, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Call 5343615, 5336988, 5341334 or 0918-9424303. Fax 5332026. E-mail info@worldbex.com or visit www.worldbex.com

LINGERIE EXPO. The first exposition on the latest in intimate and swimwear fashion, "Intima Manila: A Swimwear and Lingerie Event," will be held Feb. 18, 2006 at the Rockwell Tent. Highlight of the event that will partly benefit the I Can Serve Foundation is a mini fashion show. Call 6356727, 09017-8582342, 6558136, 0917-8125054, 6872015 or 0922-5461533.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) offers a four-Sunday basic photo course starting Nov. 20. FPPF is at 7/F, Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor Chino Roces, Makati City. Call 8435341 or 8137320.

CONCERT. The Heritage Hotel Manila sponsors Manila Philharmonic Orchestra's "Ode to the Maestro" concert 8 p.m., Nov. 22, at Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila. The show pays tribute to maestro Oscar Yatco for his contributions to Philippine culture and arts.

KIDS' FAIR. The annual Kids' Fair is ongoing at Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Planet Toys until Oct. 31. Shoppers may get up to 50-percent discount on kiddie apparel, shoes, bags, toys and accessories. Customers who present a P300 single-purchase receipt of any kiddie item will get an invitation card to Kid's Day Out, 2 p.m., today, at the mall's Entertainment Center.

SHOW. The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Festival Supermall will hold the annual show "Uniquely Singapore," Nov. 11-13, at the mall's Carousel Court. The event ushers in the mall's 2005 "Christmas Around the World" festival. A minimum purchase of P500 from any mall store entitles customers to join the Roulette Game. Prizes include airline tickets, 20 limited-edition "Uniquely Singapore" Monopoly sets. Call 8503514. Festival Supermall is at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

ACTIVITY. Eco-warriors will gather for a day-long fund-raising activity Nov. 26, at 12 Jacaranda, North Forbes, Makati City. The event "Organic Lifestyles" will benefit the Human and Ecological Security (HES) for the National Service Training Program, a joint project of the Maximo T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development and the Madrigal de Leon Foundation. The Christmas Donation Program will also be launched.

Keeping the faith in silver

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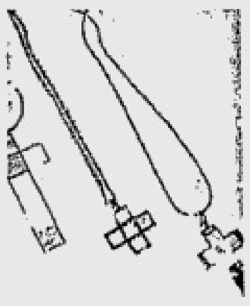
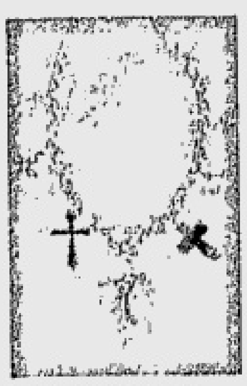
Pendants of crucifixes or medallions are perfect for personal items or as thoughtful gifts to loved ones and friends. A beautiful sterling silver rosary makes prayer time precious and sacred. Keep these tokens close, safe and precious in sterling silver pillboxes.

Michelis truly keeps every occasion and season special and significant with its wide array of high-quality sterling silver products. With fine craftsmanship and attention to detail, Michelis celebrates Filipino talent and creativity and reflects the richness of the Filipino culture and customs.

Michelis silver jewelry and accessories are exclusively available at its boutiques at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati; Greenhills Jewelry Centre in San Juan; Shangri-La Hotel Makati; and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati. Michelis is also available at the branches of Rustan's department store in Alabang Town Center, Harrison Plaza and Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong.



SWISS Cross Pendant (S), Swiss Cross Pendant (M), SCLS: Curl Cross Pendant



SNAKE necklace with large cross pendant, chain with Swiss Cross Pendant, Snake Chain with adjustable cross pendant

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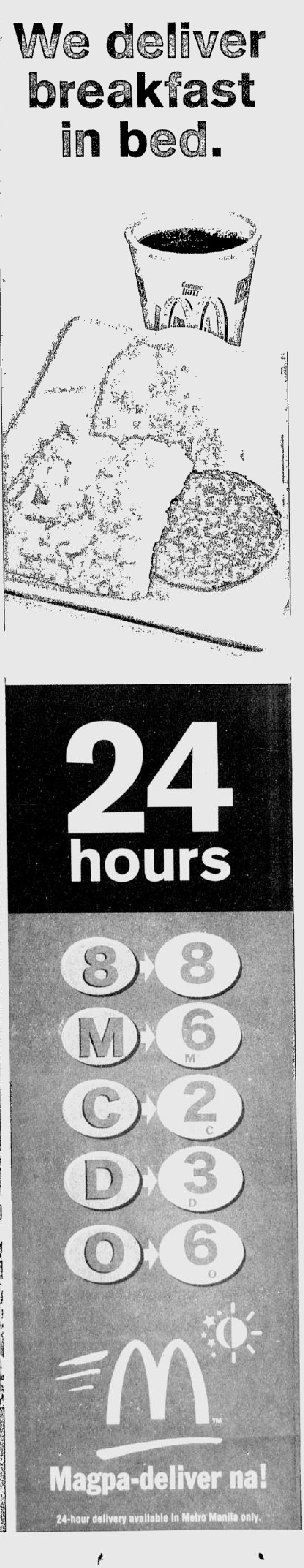
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Ferragamo . . .

From page C1

ness to the ambiance.

Marilyn Monroe

Cars couldn't enter the Forbidden City, so guests in formal garb and stilettos had to walk the great distance to the Ancestral Temple. The sight of the temple framed in a warm reddish glow made it worth the effort. The trademark red carpet led to the courtyard where guests mingled in muted light, the video wall running from one end to the other.

There was Marilyn Monroe in the iconic image of her skirt being blown by the wind, revealing the metal-reinforced stiletto heels that Salvatore Ferragamo crafted for the movie; Audrey Hepburn in "Sabrina," Joan Crawford, and so on. The video parade of stars progressed from the past to today's Madonna.

It's an acknowledgment of the success of the Philippine market that **Nedy Tantoco** was a personal guest of the Ferragamo family in the event. The ties between the two families have spanned more than two decades, begun by **Glecy Tantoco**, the clan matriarch and luxury retail pioneer who brought Ferragamo here in the '70s and opened its store chain. The event reunited Nedy with Salvatore's children who upon their father's death, took over the reins with their mother **Wanda**. Present that night were Ferragamo CEO **Ferruccio Ferragamo**, vice president **Fulvia Visconti Ferragamo**, vice president of the holding company **Giovanna Gentile Ferragamo**, and of course, the grandson who's popular among Manila's A-list because he's as handsome as a Hollywood actor, **James Ferragamo**.

PURPLE sporty coordinates

WHITE dress with flare skirt

CREAM skort and top

BLACK shorts, black and oatmeal top with sequined trim

MENSWEAR with a touch of whimsy

The fashion show was held under a black tent behind the courtyard. (No structures were allowed in the historic landmark, not even a makeup room. The models went to the site fully made-up, ready for quick changes.) Black benches ran the length of the tent. There was no elevated ramp. The runway was ground level—a long white stretch visible from the raised benches.

Ferragamo is making its mark in RTW fashion in both ladies and men. Ladies' designer **Graeme Black** is a cool amiable guy trained in the clean craftsmanship of Italian fashion. Men's designer is **Masimilliano Giornetti**, who believes that men's fashion must have whimsy and freshness. Together they defined a collection that was solid and clear. It didn't shock. Rather, it took on trends on their own terms.

Feminine

Ferragamo's Spring-Summer women's line was feminine, soft even in its tailoring, tracing the body without stifling it, baring the skin without really flashing it. Graeme was definite with his colors—oatmeal or cream with black, white, purple, sea green, blue and purplish red. His colors emerged on the runway in a gradual build-up, not in a burst, so that the collection came out cohesive. Clarity and cohesiveness are two things our designers can try mastering. No theatrics.

He opened with black and oatmeal numbers—long, flowing dresses, above-the-knee skirts, cuffed shorts reminiscent of, as **Maurice Arcache** noted, Betty Grable of yesteryears. He played with horizontal and vertical lines throughout the collection.

From the black-and-cream mix, he moved on to solid white, then introduced purple and finally his play of sea-green, blue and red with a tinge of purple. It was as if one hue led to the other. It was a collection of connectivity.

Even his volume was not overwhelming. Layering was subtle. Detailing was minute and enhancing, not obtrusive—the ruffles were delicate, but not saccharine, for they seemed more blunt and geometric and thus contemporary rather than classic feminine. Jackets were short and not masculine.

Graeme designed the shoes and bags just for the collection—wild colored prints on totes, for instance, or shoes in dual colors of purple and green.

The men's line bore the relaxed, casual look with touches of whimsy, like floral accessories on the lapel. Masimilliano drove home his point that menswear could have sophistication and elegance without looking traditional and old. He did this, for instance, by mixing fabrics and coordinates. For instance, he put a blazer over a terry cloth shirt.

Giovanna Ferragamo revealed why, in this era of mergers and acquisitions, the Ferragamo house hasn't gone public and has remained invulnerable to corporate takeovers. She said the family derives pride and coherence from their father's legacy. It was a challenge they had inherited, she said. And this is interesting: Business decisions are reached not by a majority vote within the family, but by full consensus.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs-cbn.pinoycentral.com

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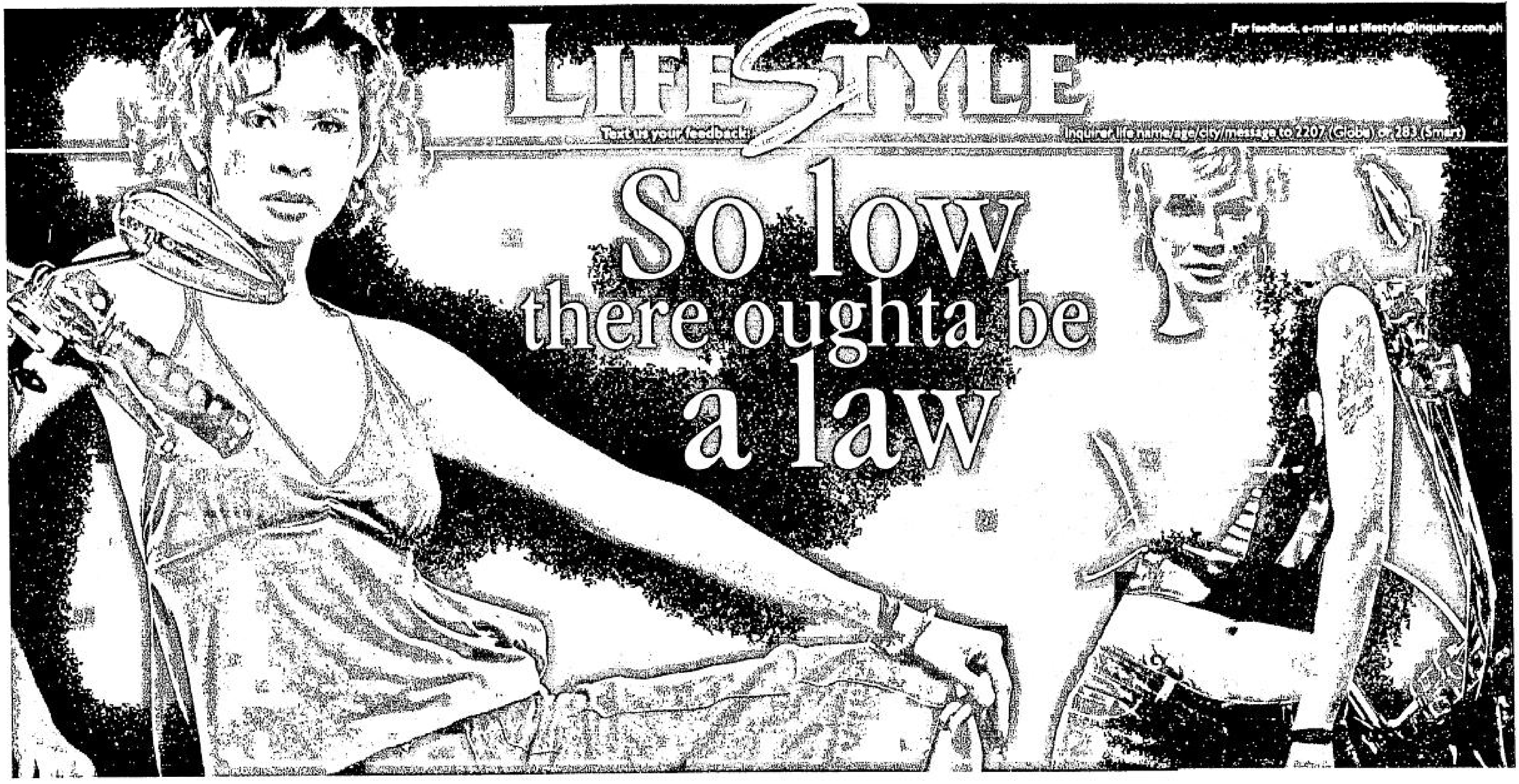


So low there oughta be a law

STYLE MAVERICK FOLDED & Hung has made a career of strapping on its heavy leather boots and walking all over the competition with its fashion-forward style and top-quality goods.

It has done it again by restyling previously sweet-as-gummy-candy Gelli de Belen into the epitome of the Biker Girl.

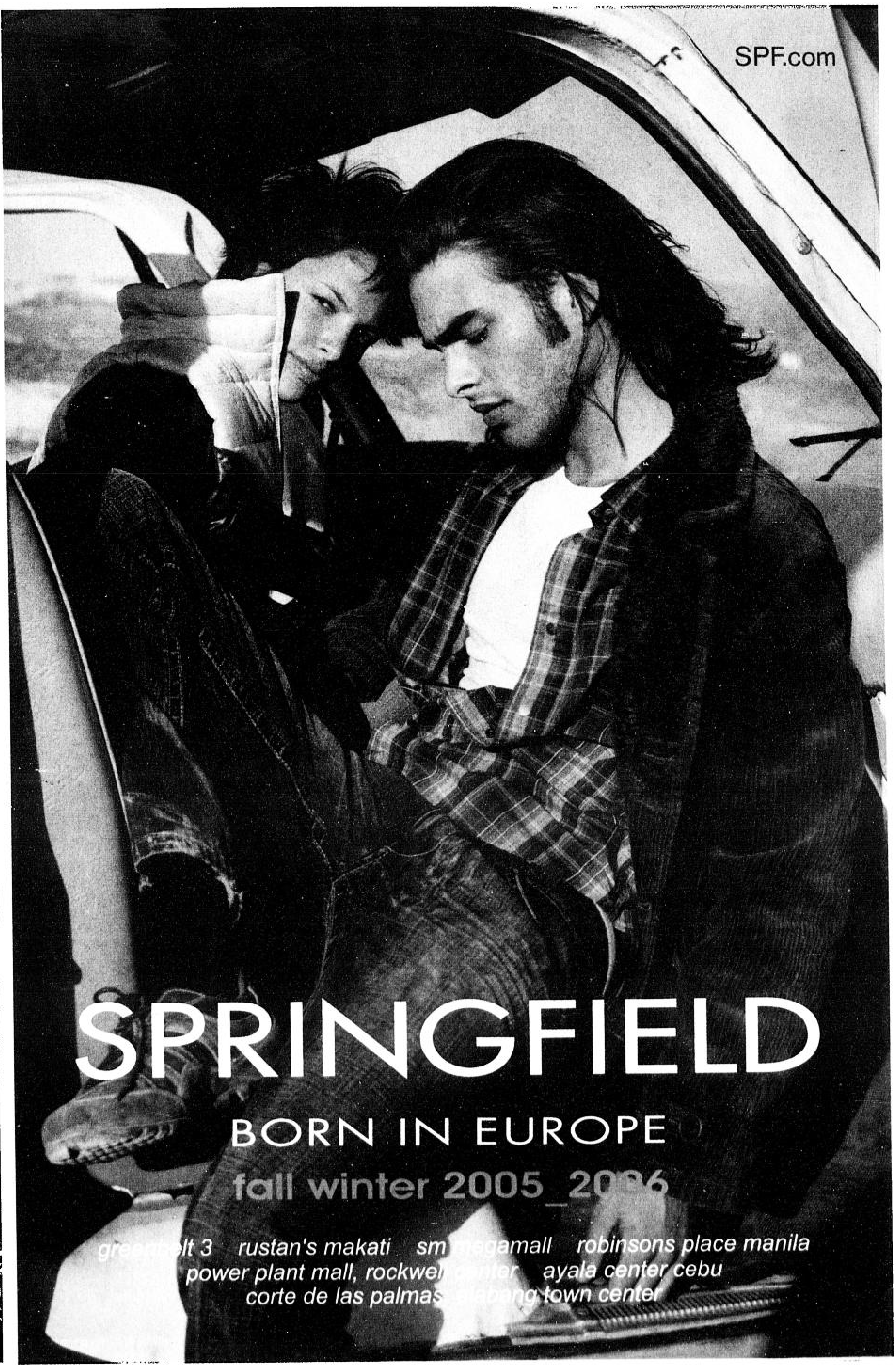
The voodoo is in the new F&H Illegally Low Jeans—as good as your old favorite pair, except for that dangerously deep-cut waist. The lines follow every tantalizing curve of your hips, and the contours enhance your body's shape.

The result is a look and feel that is totally, undeniably sexy. Slip into these and watch the boys turn to mush.

There's also a practical side to Illegally Low Jeans: The waist doesn't cut into the lower torso when you sit and bend, resulting in a lot of extra comfort. Bulges are minimized, making for a sinfully lean look.

Catch up with the low-rider wave and show a bit more skin. Score a pair of Folded & Hung's Illegally Low Jeans and be naughty for a change.

FOLDED & Hung's Illegally Low Jeans transforms Gelli de Belen into a hip biker chick.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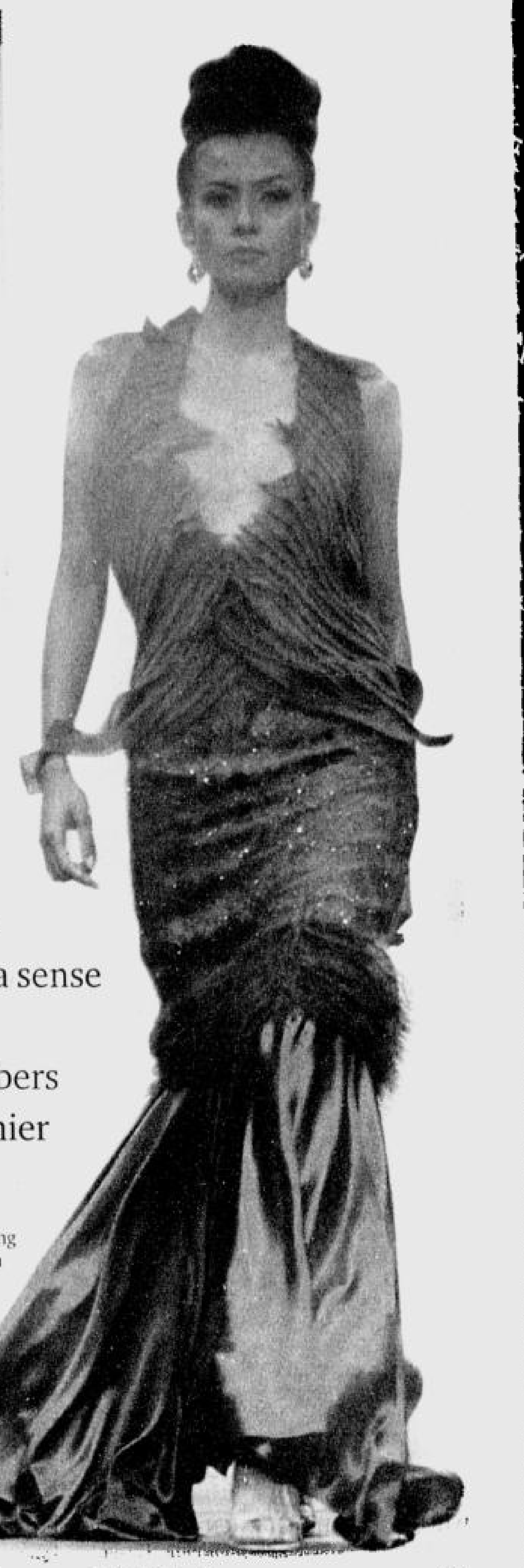

DENNIS Lustico

Mixed fashion bag

In FDCP's 'Philippine Fashion Trends '06,' a sense of cohesion seemed to have eluded members of the country's premier fashion group

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

JC Buendia

JOEY Samson

MEMBERS OF THE FASHION DESIGN Council of the Philippines came up with a mixed bag of statements that ranged from skimpy swimwear to humongous evening gowns as they unveiled glimpses of their respective spring-summer pieces at a recent fashion show at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Billed as "Philippine Fashion Trends '06," the event marked both FDCP and Saga Events' 10th year in the business. Saga Events is headed by director (and Pygmalion to many a model) Robby Carmona, who also conceptualized and directed the show. Participating designers showed three pieces each.

A sense of cohesion seemed to have eluded members of the country's premier fashion group. While Jojie Lloren, for instance, seemed to have channeled inspiration from his earlier works to fashion a tailored ready-to-wear collection composed of garment parts given exaggerated proportions, Frederick Peralta was at his theatrical best in larger-than-life black ball gowns made from yards upon yards of tulle, lace and taffeta.

Since Peralta's inspiration was supposedly French and Russian royalty, one wag likened the look to high-class prostitutes fleeing the palace as the proletariat stormed the gates. The collection (thanks in no small part to the macabre music) reminded me of Tim Burton's "The Corpse Bride," and I don't mean to be derisive.

Peralta, who takes such group shows seriously, obviously put a great deal of time and effort into his well-made pieces. But since he has been doing similar stuff in the past, there was nothing new nor trendy about his recent work. It would be refreshing to see a toned-down Peralta stripped of all those excesses in the future.

The talented Arcy Gayatin, who did ruched, draped and cut-on-the-bias jersey numbers embellished with a series of brooches, seemed to be stuck in a similar rut. Her soft and flowing white creations would have been ideal bridal gowns, but they could neither be called new nor radical since she has been into this look for several seasons now.

Tippi Ocampo was more successful in drawing inspiration from a "glammed-up painting student." The wearable collection in black, gold and white was fashioned from denim, canvas, cotton pique and banana fiber, which the designer accented with gold rope and splatters of gold paint. The silhouette was loose, but cinched around the waist like a painting apron.

Wearable gems

Despite the cacophony of influences, however, the show had its fair share of noteworthy as well as wearable gems and military-inspired creations, which managed to stand out from the clutter of recast, overcast and downright outcast fashion pieces.

Do I hear brickbats coming my way again? Before certain industry players and their coterie of fence-sitting kibitzers and sycophants start to demonize me anew, this report, although heavily opinionated, is in no way a definitive one. Nor is it an attempt to malign particular designers, but instead should be taken as an outsider's honest assessment of their clothes as they appear on the ramp. So, shall I begin with the purging process?

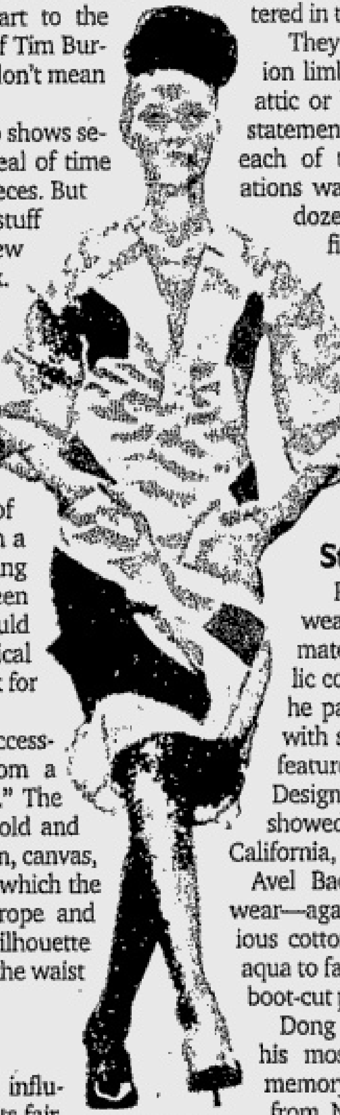
Having caught FDCP's bridal show a month ago, which had Ricci Lizaso as one of the featured designers, I now have a clear idea how his bridesmaids would look like after watching his more recent works. His wishy-washy two-piece chiffon outfits seemed to have been cut from the same cloth as his revealing bridal gown.

Apart from being unflattering—if it didn't work on the tall and lovely Isabel Roces, then it's highly unlikely it would work on anyone else—the collection revealed poor construction, what with those loose and tattered strips that were a sorry excuse for hanky drops.

Lizaso's clothes weren't intended as beach wear, as his models wore them with strappy high heels. But neither did they belong to the city, as each tiered piece showed ample skin as it fluttered in the wind.

They clearly belong to the same fashion limbo (read: at the far end of one's attic or basement) as Alex Pigao's fishy statement. I'm not being figurative here, as each of the designer's see-through creations was embellished with dozens and dozens of tassels made to look like fish bones with matching heads (cat's delight!).

If anything, Pigao's diaphanous ensemble bordered on the realm of costume, which even, well, a fish wife would be hard put to pull off. What was with all those tassels, anyway? Time to clean up your act!


IVARLUSKI Aseron

Striking collection

Rajo Laurel opted for toned-down wearability by using cotton-based materials—from knits, voile, to metallic cotton—for his trench coats, which he paired with tank tops embellished with shells, feathers and leathers. As a featured guest of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, he reportedly showed the same pieces in San Francisco, California, recently.

Avel Bacudio also had RTW and club wear—again!—in mind. He played with various cotton materials in brown, black and aqua to fashion a corset, jacket and low-rise boot-cut pants in bold hound's tooth print.

Dong Omaga-Diaz came up with one of his most striking collections in recent memory. This time he drew inspiration from Napoleon Bonaparte for his military-flavored creations that employed jersey, corduroy and strips of shantung silk. The look, which reminded us of a previous Marc Jacobs collection, was young and wearable, but far from boring.

JC Buendia also channeled the spirit of Bonaparte by reinterpreting the empire silhouette with shrugs in white and black for his and her. In lieu of braid trimmings, he used leather inserts. He drew inspiration from the birch forest, where the diminutive general waged most of his battles, with a hand-painted black birch tree on the off-white silk skirt.

Vittorio's mastery of men's wear was as usual evident in his soft denim jackets, which again benefited from "dart manipulation." The designer had the denim fabric industrially washed to achieve that blue, ashy color. His A-line dress, however, seemed like a rehash of his previous pieces. Time to give it a rest.

Remarkable pieces

Both Joey Samson and Ivarluski Aseron drew from their respective strengths to come up with remarkable pieces.

Instead of resorting to the usual suiting material, Samson did "playsuits" in biscuit-colored and light-weight knits and twill. To underscore their playfulness, each piece (which included a swimsuit-inspired suit!) was embellished with huge buttons and top stitching.

Despite borrowing certain elements from his previous pieces, Aseron was still able to make jaws drop with his collection fashioned from black, white and green organdy. Not only did he reaffirm his mastery of construction, he also came up with sure crowd-pleasers in the form of dresses with pleats, folds and layered cutouts.

But the evening's most applauded pieces (not the kind of appreciation one got from partisans—a.k.a *pala*—but one elicited from friends and strangers out of sheer respect) belonged to Dennis Lustico.

Just when everybody thought they had him pegged, the designer pulled off one of the show's biggest surprises: silk, satin and chiffon numbers in the form of blousons or hip dresses over full bias skirts in the trickiest, most vivid jewel shades. The pieces were adorned with pleats, lace, block beading and plume details.

Lustico derived inspiration from an unlikely combination: the works of New York-based artist Peter Max and Islamic arts. If not for those plunging necklines, his clothes would most likely be the hottest must-haves among women in the Middle East. Now, that's what I call a trend.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

FREDERICK Peralta

RICCI Lizaso

JOJIE Lloren

VITTORIO

ANTHONY Nocum

OJ Hofer

ALEX Pigao

ARCY Gayatin

RAJO Laurel

New formulas offer multiple skin treatments

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MOST OF US HAVE MORE THAN ONE major skin concern. Mine happens to be acne, pigmentation and, now, aging.

Because of the many problems, it's a hassle to have more than one regimen to address the different concerns. This results in conflicting treatments that cause acne to break out on the one hand and fine lines to appear on the other. There's also the hassle of buying too many beauty products, often expensive.

I have road-tested two brands that deal with multiple skin problems. The brands may save us time and money.

Clinique

A lot of people claim that they first heard the word exfoliation from me in my first few articles back in 1997.

But did you know that Clinique was the first to incorporate exfoliation in an over-the-counter manner with its basic three-step skin care back in 1968?

Back then, the bar of soap was for cleansing, the clarifying lotion for double-cleansing, treating and exfoliating, and the classic yellow moisturizer for, well, hydrating.

Very recently Clinique has come up with the long-awaited liquid cleansers in mousse form for normal to dry skin, and gel cleanser for oily skin. Both remove makeup as well as rid the face of dirt and grime.

Step two would still be the clarifying lotion, which preps skin for treatment and exfoliates dead skin depending on the specific skin types.

Another new kid on the block is the moisturizing gel for oily skin. Those with normal to dry skin can stay with the classic yellow moisturizer.

So three easy steps give several benefits. Visit the counter and have one of Clinique's trained attendants give you the skin quiz to identify your skin type so she can recommend the right regimen for you.

As for me, because of the regimen, my acne-prone skin has become less oily. It has cleared up and the pores look smaller.

BIORICA anti-age and anti-pigmentation combo

Biorica

This controversial French skin care brand uses an exclusive type of leech's saliva as the active ingredient. It sent me its "revolutionary" anti-age serum and anti-pigmentation whitening care moisturizer.

I was pleased to find that while the formula was for anti-aging, it was not greasy at all. It hydrated my skin but left it with a satin finish.

Biorica works by revving up the blood circulation around the skin. Mature skin is said to falter in circulation, so that driving up the circulation is said to help firm up the skin, improve its tone and raise its resistance.

Biorica is also said to battle free radicals that damage the skin as manifested in age spots, freckles, etc.

My skin felt warm for a few seconds, and I could literally feel it come alive. Both the serum (P3,500) and the moisturizer (P2,800) give the skin the same warm feeling. I wake up every morning with firmer skin which has an even lighter tone. The bigger spots have broken up and faded to a lighter shade and the smaller ones have disappeared over 45 days.

You can use any cleanser and toner of your choice to prep up the skin for treatment. I used the one recommended to me by Clinique for my oily skin—the gel cleanser and #3 clarifying lotion. I do the regimen every morning and night.

Foundation

Makeup addicts on a budget will love the Dream Matte Mousse foundation of Maybelline SPF 14. Those who have tried and fallen in love with the mousse texture of Clinique active white SPF 20 (for normal to dry skin) and Clarins white plus SPF 20 (for normal to oily skin), but find the price of either too steep will find comfort in Maybelline as it costs a lot less at P599.

A little goes a long way and application is easy as a pie with a foundation brush or just one's fingers. This is ideal for oily skin commonly found in teens and people in a tropical climate like ours.

Those of you who love MAC studio fix powder foundation may find that the product looks flat and dull in colder weather. I visited the counter recently and visiting MAC makeup artist Celestine Sng introduced me to Hyper Real SPF 15 foundation. This thick liquid was applied with a foundation brush and it gave my oily skin a radiant glow.

Celestine then topped it with Lightful Protect SPF 25 Powder foundation, which is available only in Asia. My complexion looked flawlessly natural and it did not grease up the whole day.

Tip on Lightful Protect foundation: go at least a shade darker as it is lighter than the Studio fix due to the sun block added in. I am an NC20 with Studiofix, but I use NC30 with the Lightful.

Clinique and MAC are exclusively available at Rustan's department store. Biorica is available at Essenses.

MAYBELLINE Dream Matte Mousse SPF 14++; Clinique Dramatically Different Moisturizing Gel for oilier skin; and Clinique Clarifying Lotion 3 for oilier skin to deflake and polish

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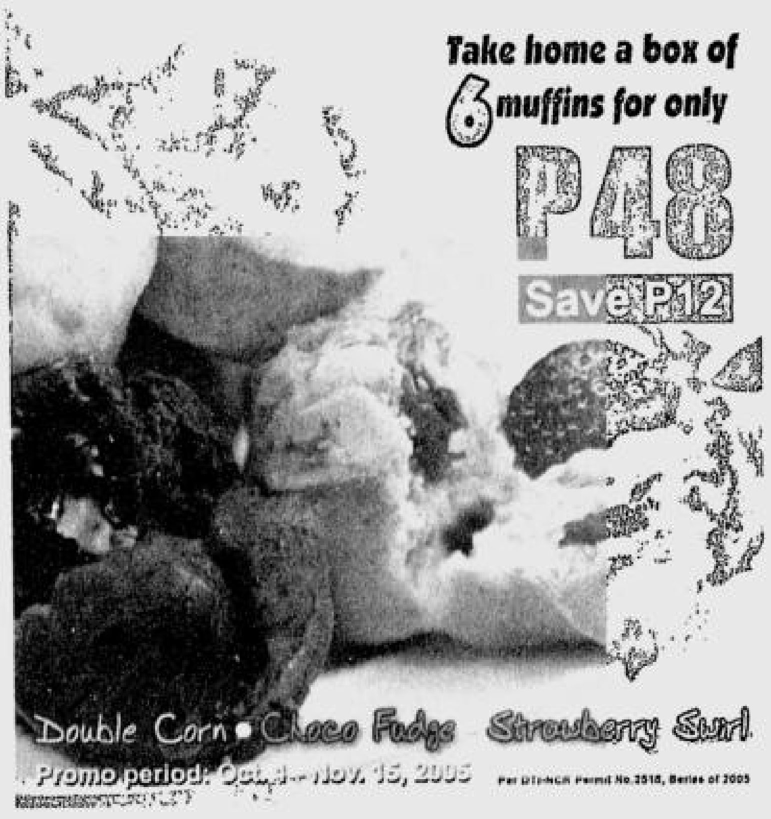

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Must-have accessory for 2006

WHEN THE FASHION DESIGN COUNCIL OF the Philippines held the Philippine Fashion Trends 2006 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, the IXUS i Zoom, a hit on the runway as the show opener, was hailed as the must-have gadget for 2006.

If the clothes paraded on the runway that night were marked by volume, the new IXUS i Zoom was and is cleverly and joyously slender and compact enough to fit in the palm of a fashionista's hand.

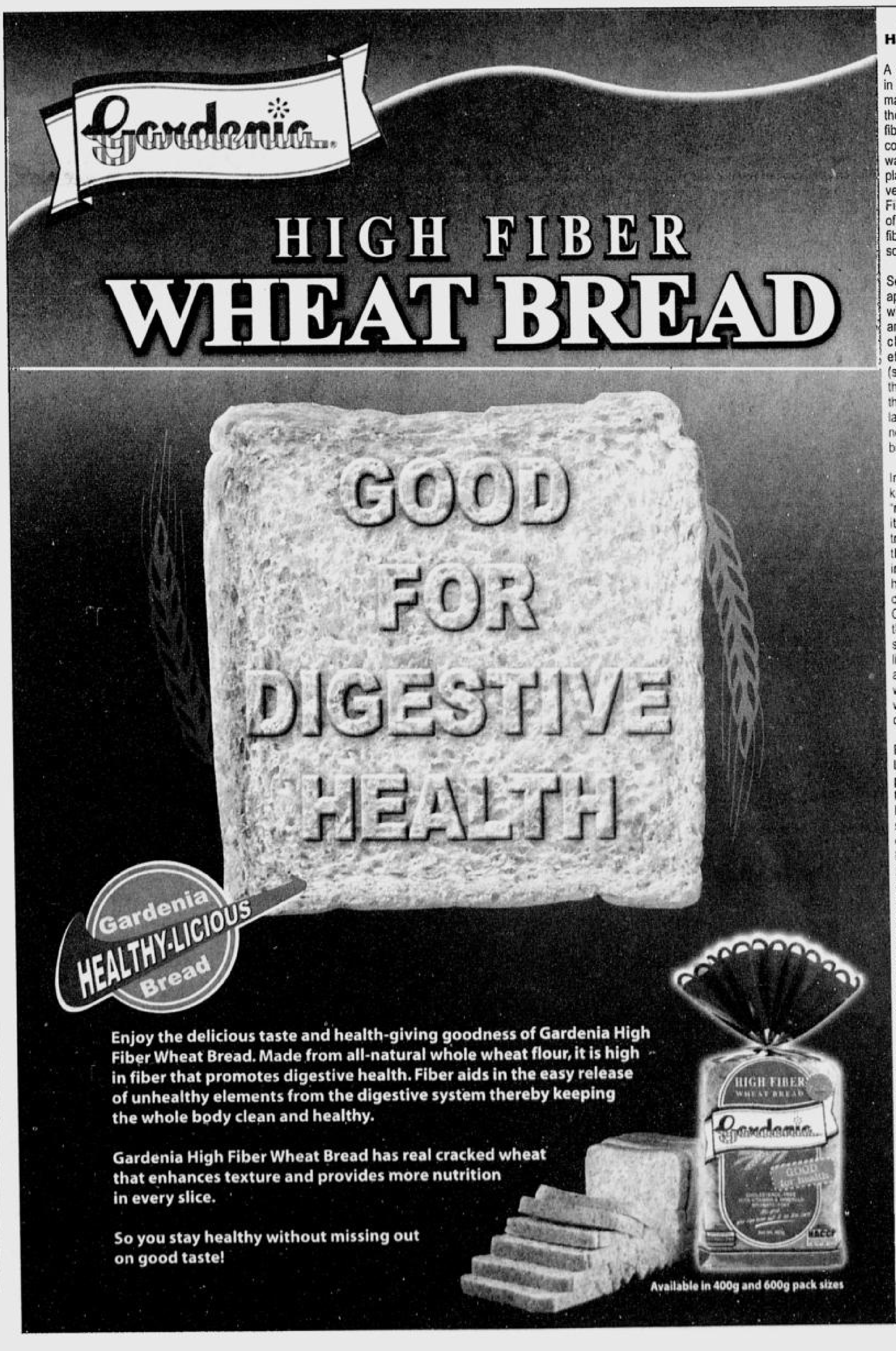
How could stylish Manila resist it? The digital IXUS i Zoom has a chrome-finished casing that come in four sparkling colors of Cranberry Red, Ultra Violet, Jet Black and Sahara Blonde. It's powered by DIGIC II-Canon's second generation imaging processor, which accelerates processing speeds, improves autofocus precision, and enhances color reproduction.

This nifty little thing is also packed with lifestyle-perfect features. A 5-megapixel digital camera with a 1.8-in LCD monitor, it allows printing of even poster-size images. It features a first for the IXUS i Series cameras—a retractable 2.4x optical zoom with UA lens technology. It also allows the user to be a fashion photographer with its My Colors function for customizing colors while shooting in both still and movie modes.

With the IXUS i Zoom, fashion accessorizing has never looked this good.

MODELS showcase the new Canon Digital Ixus i Zoom at the Philippine Fashion Trends 2006

CANON models Victor Basa and Einar Ingebrigsten holding their digital cameras



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Fiber – For a Healthy Lifestyle

A lot has been published in the literature about the many benefits of fiber to the body. But what is fiber? Fiber is a natural constituent of plant cell walls and abounds in plant foods such as fruits, vegetables and grains. Fiber is an important part of a healthy diet. Dietary fiber may be classified as soluble and insoluble.

Soluble fiber (such as apple pectin) forms a gel when mixed with liquid and is known to have a cholesterol–lowering effect. Insoluble fiber (such as wheat bran), on the other hand, passes through the intestinal tract largely intact because it is not digested in the human body.

Insoluble fiber is also known as "roughage" or "nature's broom" because it promotes the easy transit of waste materials through the large intestine, and therefore helps prevent constipation. Consequently, it prevents the potentially harmful substances in food from lingering in the intestines and coming in contact with the intestinal lining, which may be potential causes of colon cancer.

Fiber-rich foods are often low in fat and calories, promote satiety, and therefore, weight loss. Fiber also binds lipids such as cholesterol and carries these out of the body. Thus reducing the risk of heart and artery disease. Dietary fiber also has beneficial effects on glucose and insulin modulation, hence it helps to manage diabetes. Foods made from whole grains, like high fiber wheat bread, are excellent sources of dietary fiber.

The Nutritionist-Dietitians Association of the Philippines (NDAP) maintains that a diet high in fiber, combined with plenty of fluid intake and exercise, can keep the body trim, healthy and productive.

This health message is brought to you by
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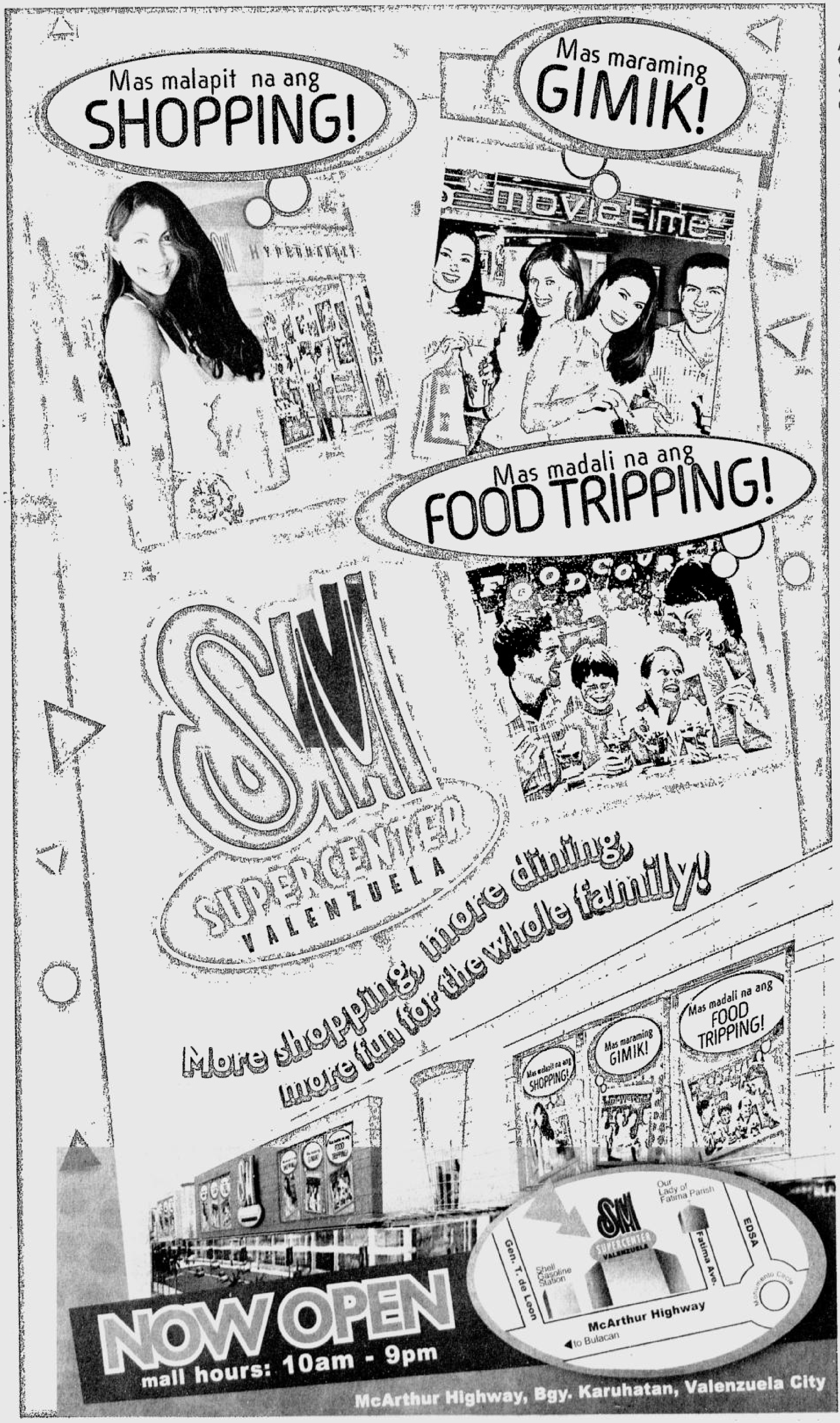
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All the fun All the time

SM CINEMA

More fun and savings options are being offered to patrons of SM Cinema Valenzuela. With **Movie Bundle 1**, billed as **Ticket Savers,** you get 4 cinema tickets for only P300. Offer is good from October 28 to November 3. With **Movie Bundle 2,** called **Snack Savers** you get a regular-sized popcorn and 12-oz. juice with a purchase of a premiere movie ticket. All these for only P140 from November 4 to 30.

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A popular dining and snacking venue for mall shoppers, SM Foodcourt offers **lunch packs** tagged at special prices and **merienda meals** at big savings.

SUPER SM HYPERMARKET

As its opening salvo, Super SM Hypermarket Valenzuela extends its **Shop 'n Win** promotion to local shoppers, giving them the chance to be among the winners of over P15 million worth of shopping money!

LIFESTYLE

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FASHION

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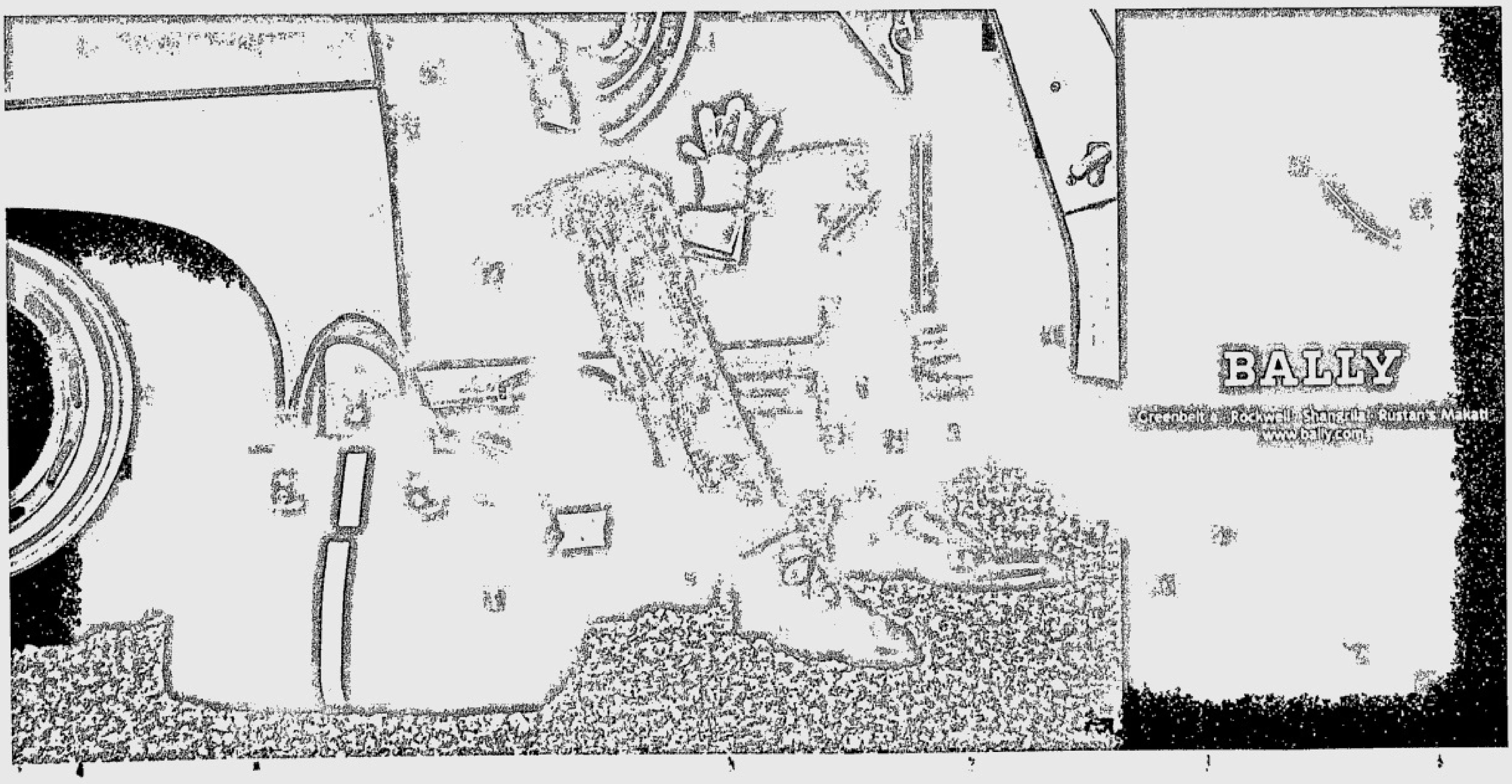
for Shu Uemura
Hair Janet de Rama
Clothes
and accessories
all from Ferragamo
A/W 2005
collection

out of the box

- ☐ Style trailblazers
Kate Toralba and Patty Eustaquio
p. E3
- ☐ Caviar dreams
from Ferragamo
p. E4
- ☐ Rocky Salumbides
From 'balut' vendor to Asia's supermodel
p. E6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“ ...savoring the best *palabok* in Divisoria, going to MDC on a Thursday night to find a vintage *bagbag*, and going to another third-world country like Sri Lanka.

—Astrud Crisologo, designer

out of the box is . . .

Compiled by Jenni Epperson

It's being fearlessly different, blazing your own trail, carving your own niche . . .

...for me Marc Jacobs personifies out-of-the-box thinking. He is fearless and unconventional, extremely talented at creating unique designs yet always tempering his creativity with classic touches. He collaborates with artists such as Takashi Murakami and putting a fresh spin on the iconic LV monogram by painting cherries on it or combining a lame top with Bermuda shorts on the runway.

—Rhea de Vera, brand manager, Louis Vuitton Philippines

...as a real estate developer, I've always thought of putting up an office just like a box. No windows, or openings to the outside. When you think about it, it really makes sense especially in this country where it's so hot. Without windows the office would be cooler so you'd spend less on electricity. Moreover, one of the first things people do when moving to an office is to put up blinds which is left closed most of the time anyway.

—Jacque Dupasquier, chairman, Net One Center Net Square, vice-chairman, Bonifacio West Dev. Corp

...seeing leadership as the ultimate form of service and self-sacrifice rather than self-propagation.

—Noel Lorenzana, managing director, Unilever Home and Personal Care

...the wrapper.

—Alessandra De Rossi, actress

...communicating with any form of being (extra terrestrials, supernaturals, plants, animals).

—Mari, head, Motorola marketing

...an overused cliché.

—Manny del Rosario, creative director, Ogilvy & Mather

...having a sense of self... looking inward rather than at FTV for inspiration. As a Boracay resident for almost two years now, I leave the big parties and weekends to the tourists. Instead of cocktails at sunset, I get up early to meet the sunrise. Big events are full-moon nights and watching the moon set. A night out is dancing to the beat of drums and fire dancing at Red Pirates, hanging out with the locals at Bamboo Lounge or taking over Hey Jude on week nights. Gratitude is my drug and it keeps me dancing all night! Don't call it uncertainty—call it wonder.

-Freida Dario, marketing manager, Mandalan Spa, Boracay

...my dad's old barong in embroidered *jusi*, which I love to wear with jeans and an extra long strand of pearls.

—Mia Borromeo, fashion consultant and entertainment editor, Metro Society Magazine

...imagining yourself being with another gender you're not used to.

—Carlo Tadiar, editor, Metro Him magazine

...piña silk dress trimmed with worn out leather.

—Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, designer

...pure imagination +creativity +insanity.

—Francis Flores, group brand manager, Unilever Ponds

...sincerity.

—Ariel Lozada, fashion show director ”

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Far-from-the-madding-crowd fashion

Don't think like the herd.
Think chic, think you

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

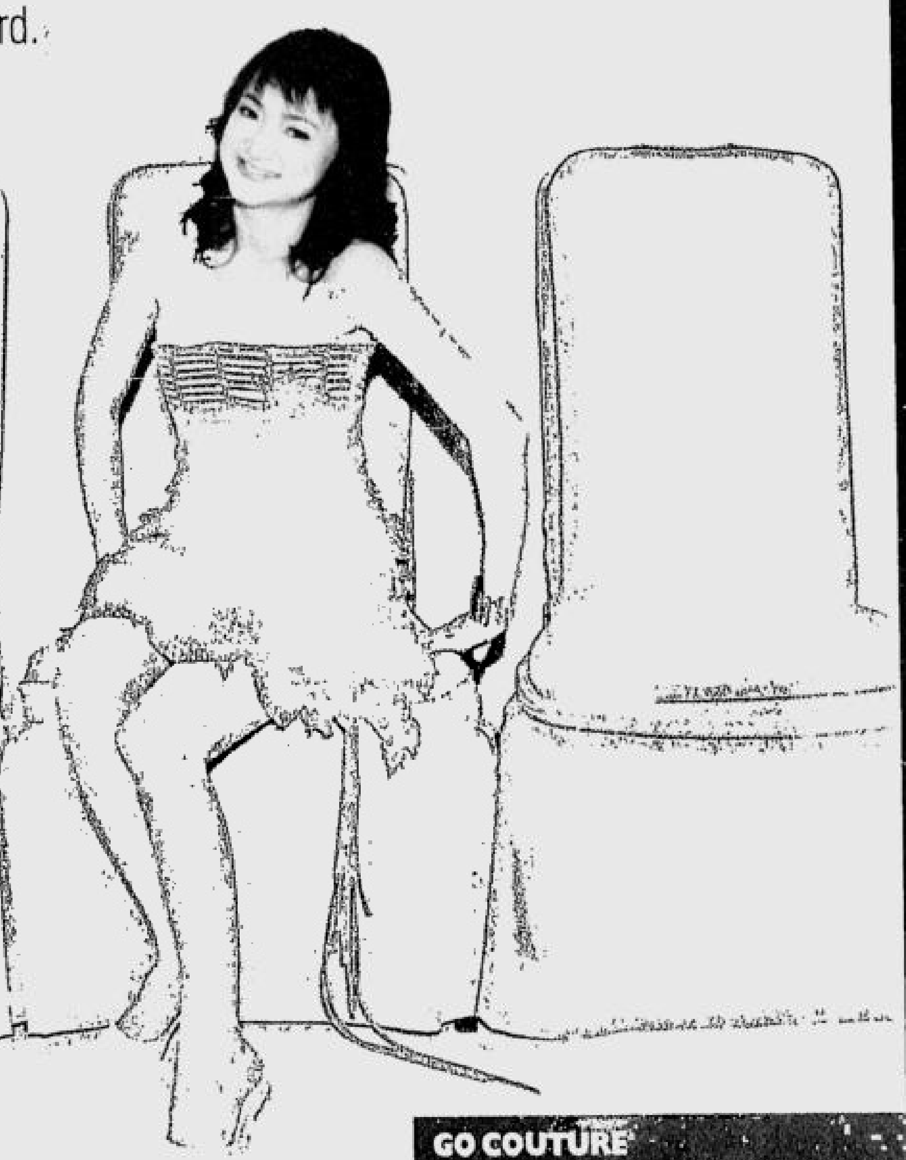
INDIVIDUALS WHO THINK outside conventions often stand out. Normally, these are people who go against the grain and who make a strong impression on others. They are the trailblazers and trendsetters who are not afraid to be different and to make a difference.

Fashion, being a form of visual art (yes, it is an art form), is just one of the many ways you can stand out and express your unique personal style. No, it may not be as profound as trying to save the world by lobbying against deforestation or land mines and the like. But it really is an effective way to communicate your creativity and individuality.

So, don't be a fashion cliché! Reprogram the so-called "herd mentality" that Filipinas are sometimes known for (example: *barkadas* all dressed alike and going to the powder room in droves!).

Take your cue from two young and talented designers who are making their mark in the local fashion scene, as they share practical but stylish tips on how to dress in an out-of-the-box fashion.

Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



Kate Torralba

Most known for her colorful little frocks and jersey multi-way dresses, Kate is always clad in something unexpected and fresh. She says that dressing differently does not mean you have to look weird or edgy. Simply choose unusual pieces like a multipurpose top or clothing in far-from-basic hues that are still flattering.

Kate stresses that one must not follow trends blindly. "Embrace trends if you want to but inject your personality. Also don't sacrifice the cut or color that suits you best in favor of following the latest trends," she wisely counsels.

(Call or text 0906-2699056 or email kt_fashionista@yahoo.com)

GO COUTURE
If you have trouble thinking of fashionable out-of-the-box ideas, go to a designer and have something special made. "I always wear my own designs. So every now and then, I go to someone else for a much-needed change," Kate says. Cocktail dress by Cary Santiago.

COLOR-BLOCKING
Go for details like texture or colors when choosing a wardrobe staple. Choose an item with character like a one-of-a-kind colorful jacket that you can mix and match with basic pieces.

SURPRISE PEOPLE!
When people start to think that they know how you dress, throw them off a little by wearing something unexpected. If you're always in a dress, opt for a playsuit, which is still easy to wear and just as stylish.

PHOTOS: JO ANN BITAGCOL (0917-4033203)
MAKEUP: LOURD RAMOS OF MAC
FROM MAC'S NATURALLY ECCENTRIC COLLECTION
HAIR: EMPHASIS SALON

STYLIZED TOP
Why not have a top designed especially for you? To make it more visual and tactile, Patty suggests that you try combining different fabrics or prints. An unexpected mishmash of lace, tulle and georgette is an interesting option. You can also inject quirky little details such as a deconstructed corsage or a belt with suspender type clasps for added flair.

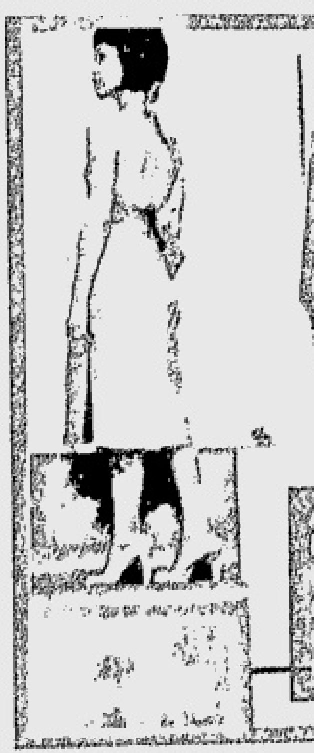
Patty Eustaquio

This petite, stylishly quirky artiste and designer will not settle for anything run-of-the-mill. A cross between Maggie Gyllenhaal and a modern-day Clara Bow, she suggests the use of unusual silhouettes and details to give an outfit extra oomph. She manages to combine an edgy vibe with uptown sophistication while injecting personal touches such as handpainted basic black pumps.

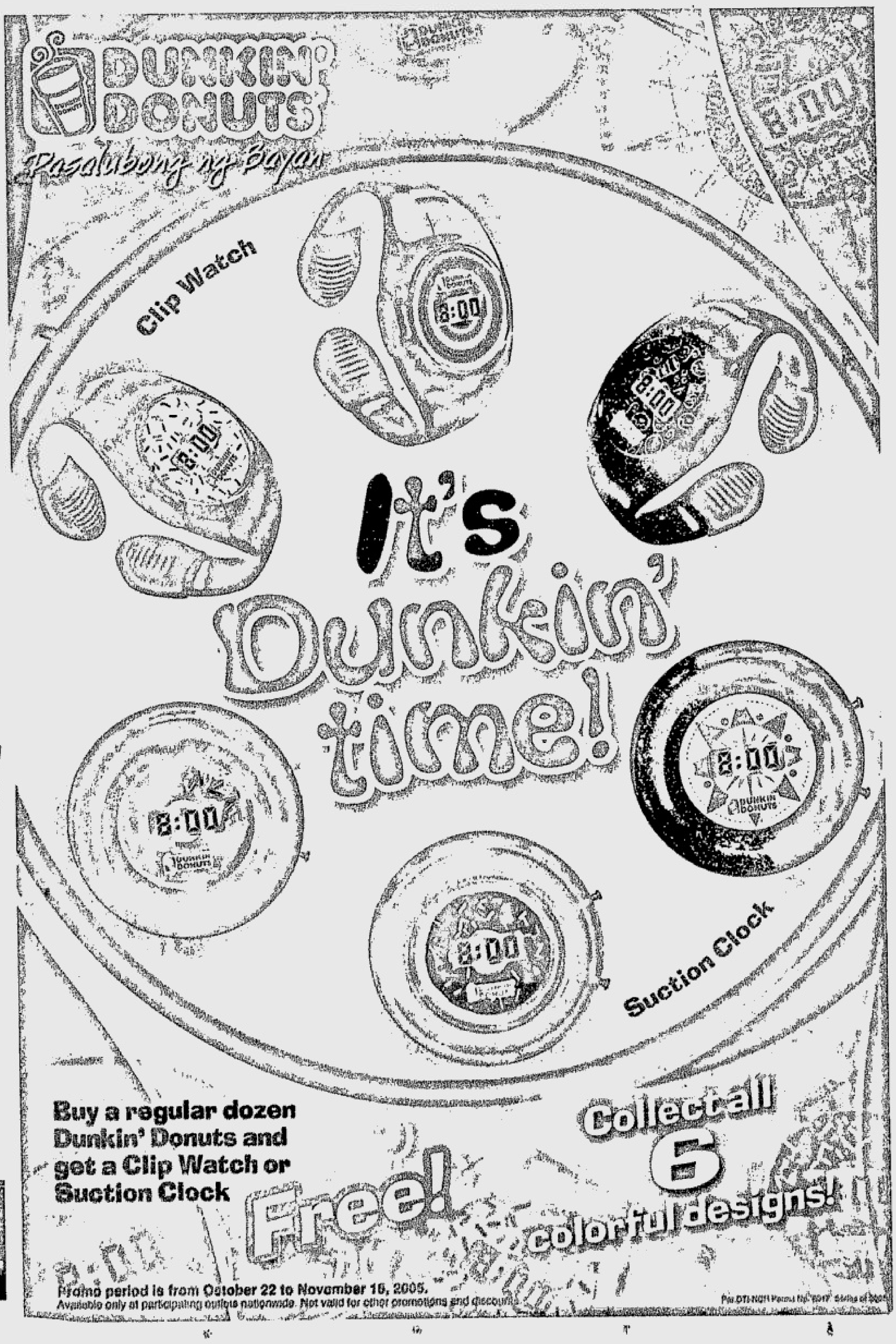
Never afraid to break fashion rules while setting her own in the process, she suggests that you invest in any of the following to make your basic wardrobe more interesting.

(Call or text 09178979474.)

HAREM PANTS
[illegible] which you can match with plain or stylized spaghetti strapped tops.



APRON COCKTAIL DRESS
[illegible]



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Caviar dreams

By Jenni Epperson

CHAMPAGNE WISHES AND caviar dreams." "This was one of the most popular and cheesiest phrases in the '80s, but like millions of viewers around the world, I too said, 'More cheese, please!'"

My fascination with the "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" kept me glued to the boob tube for many years. Of course, the show's host, Robin Leach, was nauseating to watch, but his features on the lifestyles of jet-set celebrities, millionaires and billionaires—their mansions, cars, yachts, and (my favorite part) their closets—made up for it.

I grew up watching with my mom soaps such as "Dallas," "Falcon Crest," "Knots Landing," and of course, "Dynasty." She would tell me how the plots were broadly drawn and how the characters were absurd—as if I really cared!

What captivated me to the shows were the wealth, fashion and glamour the cardboard characters exuded.

From then on, I'd always associate big hair, shoulder pads and showy clothes such as long fur coats, glittery and jewel-toned materials, and knee-high boots (similar to the character of Fallon Carrington in "Dynasty"—now a super must-see DVD) with affluence and luxury.

Rich

I still do. And this is exactly the look of Ferragamo's A/W 2005 collection—rich but sans the shoulder pads!

And why shouldn't it be? Ferragamo has always been synonymous with luxury. From its use of skins, the softest fabrics and wonderful silk prints, the famous fashion house has produced goods of the highest quality—with a premium that the rich, the beautiful (and perhaps the damned) are willing to pay for.

It's not for everyone, obviously. Heck, some pieces are not even for me (I will have to pawn my right arm just to afford some of them).

But if you live the life of an heiress, or a GDP (girls with daddy's "plastic"), or you belong to the ladies-who-lunch bunch, then Ferragamo should be "ferra" good for you. Because, just like milk and cookies, Will and Grace, champagne and caviar, you and Ferragamo are a perfect combo.

Roe taste

Okay, don't cry just because some of you are not millionaires... yet (remember, first, you have to think rich to become rich).

Seriously, you don't have to pawn anything to savor these babies. Like caviar, Ferragamo may be the King Sturgeon of the style Caspian, but like other species, it has different genus. The coats, shoes/boots and dresses are the Beluga (the most prized) of the collection; bags and tops are the Osetra, while accessories are the Sevruga, the more affordable pieces of the collection that can give any fashionista a taste of the "millionaire's roe."

On the other hand, I am only the Pita cracker or the mini toast on which you smother the caviar. It's like I'm part of it but not quite it! Oh well, this fashion comrade will just have to sleep and dream of it for now, but the heavenly black thigh-high stretch boots with brown crock leather toe is something I really want to buy, and I might just do that. I can always tell my hubby, "But I was sleepwalking, Hon" (wink, wink).

Meanwhile, whip out those fantastic plastics and get these goodies while they're hot and literally fresh out of the box before someone else indulges on these fashion servings.

Remember, don't live a lie, live a dream... a caviar dream! Pass the champagne, please. (And lower the chin, bat the lashes, smile.)

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Stately impressions. Indulge in details and layers of various textures

Grand illusions. Unexpected elegance in a cinch

Ferragamo's Autumn-Winter Collection is the catch of the season

Vision.
The skirt
is the new
dress

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proportions.
Excite the
senses
with
unorthodox
lengths

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(0918-8446454/8903621)
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
DIGITAL IMAGING ARNZ LORENZO
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MODEL GRACE TAGLE
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HAIR JANET DE RAMA
CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES
ALL FROM FERRAGAMO
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CONTACT SALVATORE FERRAGAMO STORES
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SPECIAL THANKS TO
MALU FRANCISCO
AND GINA BONOAN

PHILIPPINE FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION 2005

The empress' new 'baro't saya'

By Jenni Epperson

THE FASHION AND DESIGN COUNCIL OF the Philippines heralded its new vanguards for fashion design when our country's official representatives to the renowned International Competition of Young Fashion Designers were chosen through its local counterpart, the equally prestigious Philippine Fashion Design Competition.

Every year, the competition organizers give a central theme and each participating country formulates its own theme according to its own interpretation and cultural context. As such, this year's international theme: "Art, Fashion & Industry" spawned "Baro't Saya and Letras y Figuras" as the theme for the Apparel Division.

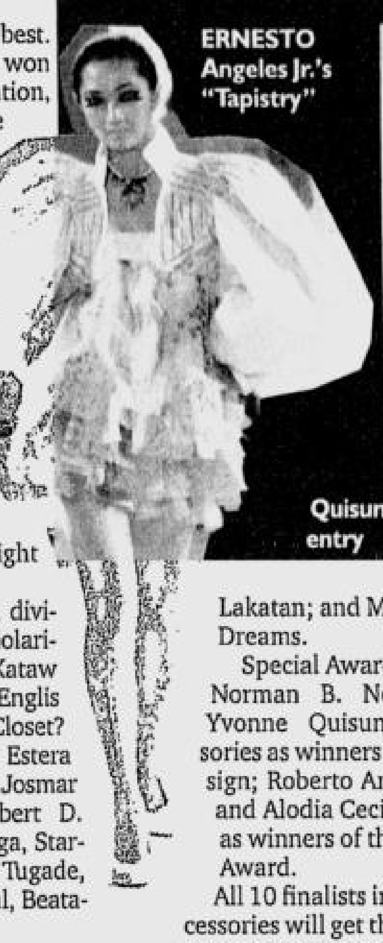
I thought it was a smashing theme and excuse for more fashionistas, doyennes and empresses of style to get dolled up in our national garb on formal occasions (bravo!). The competition provided wide range of styles and materials, not to mention the mobile phone numbers of new designers. Me? I got the mobile phone numbers of 13 young designers, and of these, only 12 will be my new best friends because one will always be Judas—just kidding.

I've been asked to judge other designers' competitions in the past and from my experience, I often get stumped when it comes to choosing the best materials used, especially indigenous ones. At this tilt, I was floored by how creatively these designers have used some arid material or fabric like the *banig* or *ginantsilyo*, and I wasn't even a judge. I'm sure the real judges did not breeze through the processes of picking the winners.

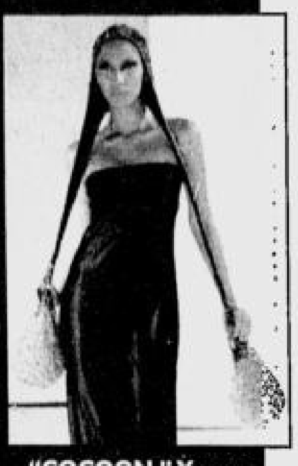
Apparels

In the apparel division, *piña* silk, *jusi*, coconut shells and *hablon*, among other indigenous materials, were used to create original separates. Native patterns, natural textures and organic shapes ruled the overall design aesthetic.

But one stood out as the best. Ernesto "Eerie" M. Angeles Jr. won the judges' hearts for his creation, "Tapistry," a two-piece ensemble of a cropped jacket with bag sleeves and a sheath dress made of *piña* strips. Eerie was in my winners' list. Of course, I was thinking, which of these entries can I actually wear to Embassy Super Club? It has to be hip, interesting and something I can actually dance in. I mean what's the point in creating fabulous dresses like these if they're just going to be in a museum? Who knows? Those party Parisians might just think the same.



ERNESTO Angeles Jr.'s "Tapistry"



"COCOON," Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo's winning entry PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Other finalists in the apparel division were Jerome S. Ang for Radiolarians; Eric B. de los Santos for Kataw (Mermaid); Emi Alexander L. Englis for Quo Vadis (Out of the Closet? Where To?); Roberto Angelo A. Estera for Ang Saranggola ni Pepe; Vic Josmar R. Floresca, Pinta; Mark Gilbert D. Marpuri, Sancta; Norman Noriega, Starry, Starry Night; Finina Marie M. Tugade, Reform; and Lory Mer F. Villareal, Beata-Sophisticada.

New division

The competition opened an exciting new chapter this year when it included an accessories division. Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo's "Cocoons" won the top prize. A headpiece that resembled a cocoon made out of *piña* silk, leather, glass and crystal beads, it also doubled as a bag with two compartments. This entry was a breath of fresh air and stood out among the designs. I could just see a miniature version of it dangling from my bag.

Other finalists in the accessories division were Chris C. Diaz, Mangha; Danilo P. Macote, Encantadia; Mary Felylou B. Miller, Lakatan; and Mark Anthony V. Tenchavez, Dreams.

Special Awards were also handed out to Norman B. Noriega for apparel, and Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo for accessories as winners of the Metro Award for Design; Roberto Angelo A. Estera for apparel and Alodia Cecilia M. Sales for accessories as winners of the Canon Ixus Vibrant Style Award.

All 10 finalists in apparel and the five in accessories will get the chance to compete in the International Competition in December at the Carrousel de Louvre in Paris, France.

A one-year scholarship to the Chambre Syndicate de la Haute Couture, cash prize of Euro 3,000 and a round-trip airline ticket await the grand prize winner of the international competition. Training courses from the Lesage School of Art Embroidery, sewing and embroidery machines will be awarded to special prize winners.

The Philippine Fashion Design Competition 2005 was presented by the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines, Saga Events + Models, and the Ayala Land Inc., Commercial Centers Group.

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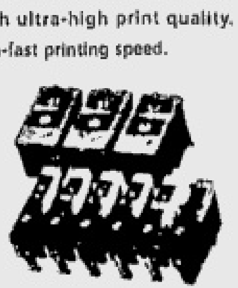

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STYLE magazine fashion editorial in Singapore

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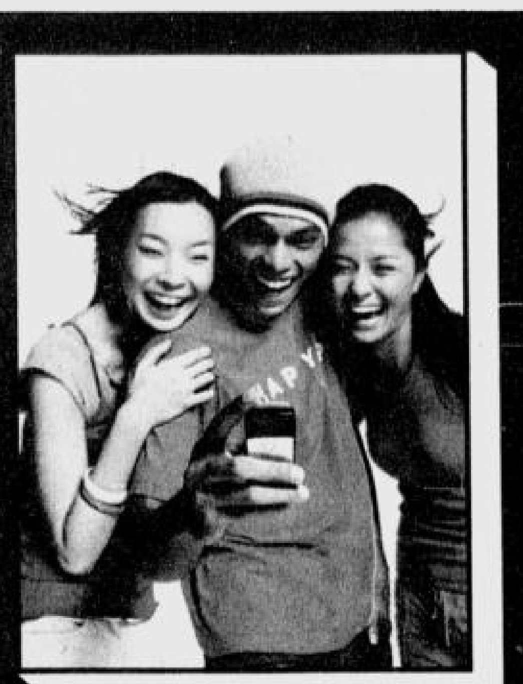


MODELING for Motorola

Rocky! Rocky! Rocky!

This unsung hero proudly flies the fashion flag of our nation

By Bianca Valerio
Contributor

WHO WOULD'VE thought that selling *balut* and mangoes in the wet market could land you on the Singapore and Hong Kong fashion runways?

Twenty-five-year-old home-grown mannequin Rocky Salumbides epitomizes what it is to be tall, dark and handsome. Add: rock-hard abs, sheer determination to succeed and the most amazingly down-to-earth personality. With all those in the equation, you have the makings of a true Caviteño and a male supermodel.

When I modeled in Singapore last summer, I had the chance to meet Rocky at a casting. And because there were only a couple of us Filipinos trying to penetrate the Singaporean market, we all had an unwritten agreement to stick together no matter what. We had to because some clients seemed to be discriminatory against Filipinos and ridiculed the Philippines for its domestic helpers.

Yet in casting after casting, I was always asked if I knew this hot Filipino male model in town. As Rocky's popularity grew—he was the only model to be part of every show during the Singapore Fashion Festival—my curiosity grew. What was it about Rocky that everyone couldn't get enough of?

Comparing notes as to how we landed ourselves in Singapore in the first place, I assumed we both strove for the same goals: make money, make a strong impression and make our momma and country proud. Sure we did. But little did I know that this model-of-the-moment had to beg his to way to Singaporean shores—literally.

Innovation

It was one thing to seek representation from an agency. It was another thing to ask the agency to shoulder boarding expenses in advance if it believes you're marketable. The whole thing was unheard of until Rocky begged the one agency that wasn't even too sure of him, Looque, to shoulder all his expenses in advance as he had nothing to offer but a determined will to do everything he could to provide for his struggling family. With just P500 in his pocket, he conquered Singapore with every magazine, director and photographer wanting to get a piece of him.

Rocky had dropped out of college in order to provide for his family. The dutiful son that he was, this aspiring veterinarian found himself selling *balut* and mangoes, driving a forklift in a small factory and working in heavy construction. He earned less than the minimum wage for two years. He tried to become a professional basketball player, but his career was cut short because of injuries.

'Too Pinoy'

It was makeup artist and Acquire Modeling Agency owner Jinky Ilusorio who discovered Rocky. But he was rejected by casting directors who considered his looks "too Filipino," typical and ordinary.

But he got his revenge when he won the right to represent the Philippines in the MTV Fashionista 2004 Best Model of the World. Taking part in the contest in Turkey, Rocky took home the Gentleman Award and finished third runner-up.

Noticed by photographers and casting directors from Paris and Milan, Rocky didn't even have a calling card or portfolio to give.

As much as he appreciated the awards he had won, he knew that they wouldn't pay for his brother's college tuition, mother's insulin or the mortgage payments on their house. But they gave him the confidence to take modeling to the next level by stepping out of Manila.

In just two months in Singapore, Rocky landed campaigns for Motorola and Corona Beer; runway shows for the likes of Gucci and Versace; and countless editorials for major magazines. He then returned to Manila to shoot for Advil, Globe Telecom and BPI.

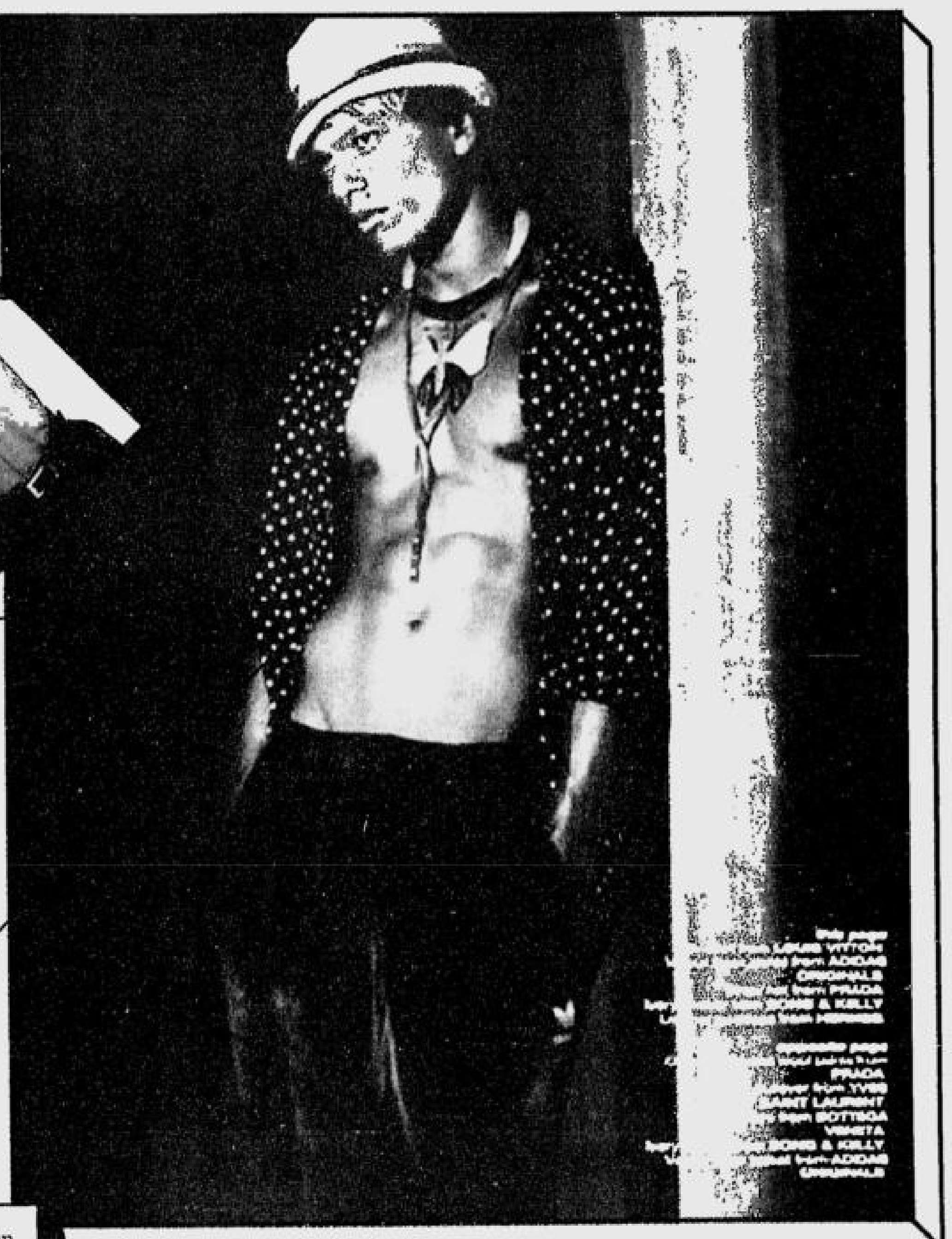
It was only during the Chopard fashion show when I got the chance to work with Rocky again. Despite his success in Singapore, he still remained the quiet, humble and respectful Rocky I had met months earlier. I admired how he chose not to let the fame get the better of him.

Currently Rocky is in Hong Kong where, once again, he enjoys male supermodel status. There, he has modeled for Jean Paul Gautier, John Galliano, Seibu, Levi's, Reebok, Harbour Plaza and Men's Uno, to name a few.

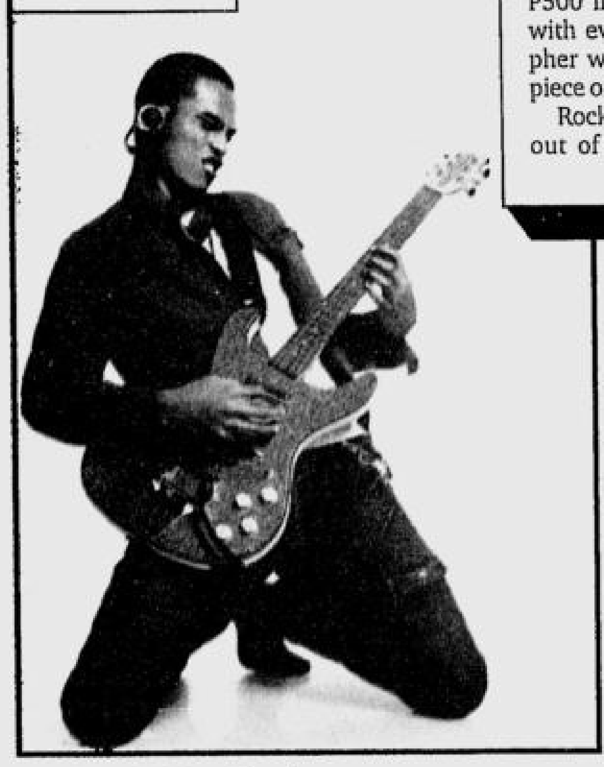
Rocky has set his sights for bigger things. "I have learned, it is far easier to deal with disappointment, than deal with regret," he said.

With the help of foreign models he has met along the way, top agencies from Paris, Yugoslavia, Germany and Milan have asked to represent him in Europe. To think he couldn't even get work in his own country. Now the whole world awaits his arrival!

ROCKY lets loose in Motorola's regional ad campaign.

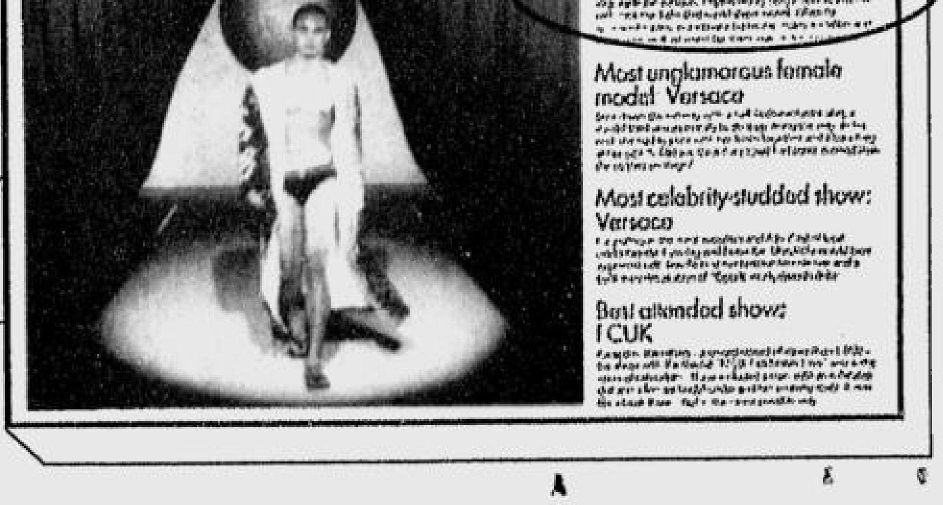


PINOY supermodel poses for a V MAN fashion editorial.



ROCKY rocks Hong Kong!

STYLE magazine Singapore fashion editorial



Hottest male model.
Rocky from Looque Models

Most unglamorous female model: Versace

Most celebrity-studded show: Versace

Best attended show: I CUK

HOTTEST male model according to Singapore Straits Times, as Rocky wows the crowd at a Versace fashion show

MAKEOVER

Boxy bod

By Jenni Epperson

Maureen Disini, 26

Dilemma: My body has not matured since 16. I'm too skinny, anorexic-looking, skeletal, built like a boy.

Desire: To look sexy and more lady-like.

PAIR your shorts with a bright-colored top with ruffled details to add oomph to your upper body.

SLIGHTLY loose white trousers creates an illusion of fuller legs.

A RUCHED jersey dress adds extra curves.

PHOTOS: MIGUEL NACIENCENO (TEL. 0917-8129800)
STYLING: JENNI EPPERSON
HAIR AND MAKEUP: KAT CALDERON (TEL. 0917-5349021)
CLOTHES: FREEWAY

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS M

MEL Cuevas, 28
BEA Constantino, 23

Bootie call

Text and photos by Katrina Cruz
Contributor

ANSWERING THE call of their individualistic fashion sense, these stylish folks hit the malls and clubs in the season's latest trend. Whether it's stilettos or flats in suede or leather, slouchy or Western in knee-highs or calf-lengths, this winter staple peculiarly finds its way to Manila's well-heeled circle. Don't be shy, try one on with your jeans, skirt, even shorts. Strip off your conventional steppers because this pair is ready for the long haul.

MARIELLE Bitanga, 15

SHEENA Vera Cruz, 24
MIKA Benipayo, 18
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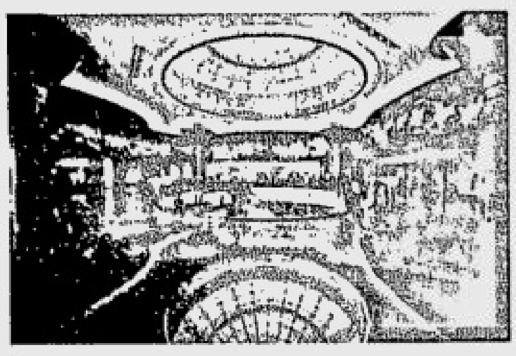
THE ARANETA CENTER RENAISSANCE

Araneta Center Inc. (ACI), flagship pioneers of the Philippines' commercial center business turned 50 this year, but its future has just begun.

Late last year, ACI's P2.5-billion landmark project, the Gateway Mall (the first phase of its grand plan), opened its doors to the public, putting the Araneta Group back on the list of retail giants to contend with.

Cinemas in the lap of luxury

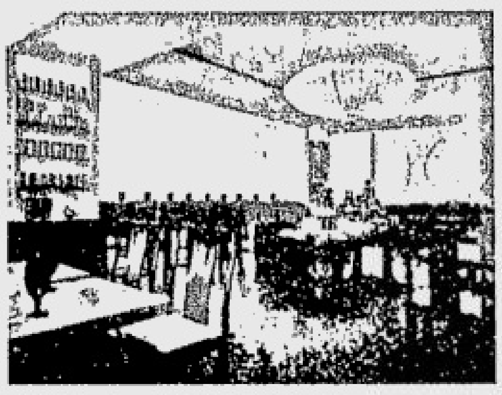
The mall like no other, Gateway boasts of 10 luxuriously appointed cinemas with digital sound and full stadium seating and the only La-Z-Boy theater in the country; 'The Oasis', a one-of-a-kind interior floating garden open to the sky; the Fabergé Egg-like 'Pavilion' which serves as Gateway's ceremonial entrance; and direct connection to the Mecca of Philippine entertainment, the Araneta Coliseum.



Gateway, so named because it aspires to be the main corridor for all shoppers in Metro Manila, is now home to the world's biggest names in upscale retailing and dining including Mango, Rustan's, Lacoste, Italianni's, Marks & Spencer, and many more.

Mandarin Oriental Café Opens

One of the latest and most notable new additions to Gateway is the Mandarin Oriental Café & Deli. This is the first time any hotel in the country has ventured into operating a restaurant outside hotel premises. The café, beautifully put together by renowned designer Sonia Santiago-Olivares, gives you the feel of being in an Oriental Village. Equally impressive are the lighting fixtures and their vibrant collection of tabletop amenities, atop which all your deli favorites will be served—your beloved gourmet sandwiches, homemade ice cream, wines and cheeses. There to greet you as well is a whole new a la carte menu filled with many Asian favorites, such as Hainanese Chicken, Barbecued Duck Noodles, even puto bumbong, bibingka and churros.



Unmatched MRT & LRT connectivity

Gateway forms part of the grand redesign of the Araneta Center. The Center itself is undergoing a massive 20-year redevelopment plan. Walkway structures for Light Railway Transit Line 2 (LRT 2) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) commuters have been constructed to serve as an all-access way for shoppers to roam freely around the complex.

Pavement renovation has been one of the first to take place within the area to complement the newly opened fashion shops, entertainment centers and dining hubs. Street lighting and sidewalk floorings have also been redesigned to complete the refurbished look of the Center. Other remarkable changes already in place include better security, vehicle zoning for easier traffic flow, and upgrading of buildings including Farmers Market.

Farmer's Market outpacing all others

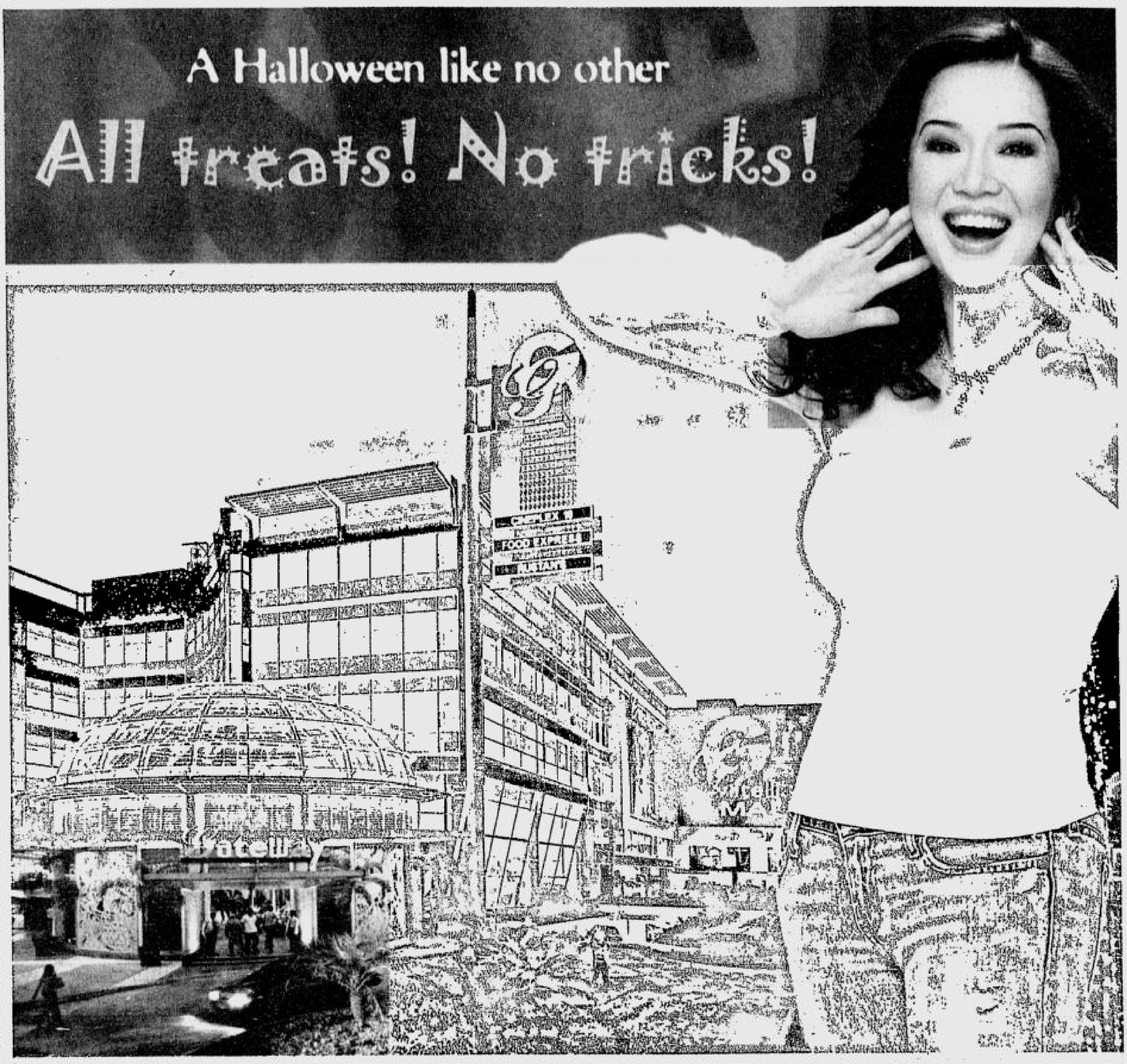
The country's premier market will soon be sporting pushcart ramps, live seafood tanks, Dampa stalls, a Center For Culinary Arts cooking school, and a grand façade and to reflect its new festive ambience. With its formal reopening, the bigger and better Farmers Market is sure to set new standards in traditional market retailing

Araneta Group Chairman Jorge L. Araneta's vision is to transform the Center into a mixed-use complex complete with first-class hotels, office towers and residential spaces. In line with this, Araneta Center, Inc. and Megaworld Corporation signed an agreement for the construction of 17 residential towers, comprising a total of 6,000 condominium units, on a 5-hectare property within Araneta Center.

Greening of Araneta Center

A focal point of the project is the three-story high garden walkway that will interconnect all the residential buildings. The elevated walkway is the first of its kind in the country to incorporate garden-style landscaping and seating. It is designed to make walking to the train stations as pleasant an experience as a leisurely stroll through a park.

All these developments mark Araneta Center's bid to become the ultimate lifestyle destination for the entire metropolis: striking, vibrant and alive with 24-hour activity. Creating a unique synergy to make the Araneta Center a truly special place to live, work and play.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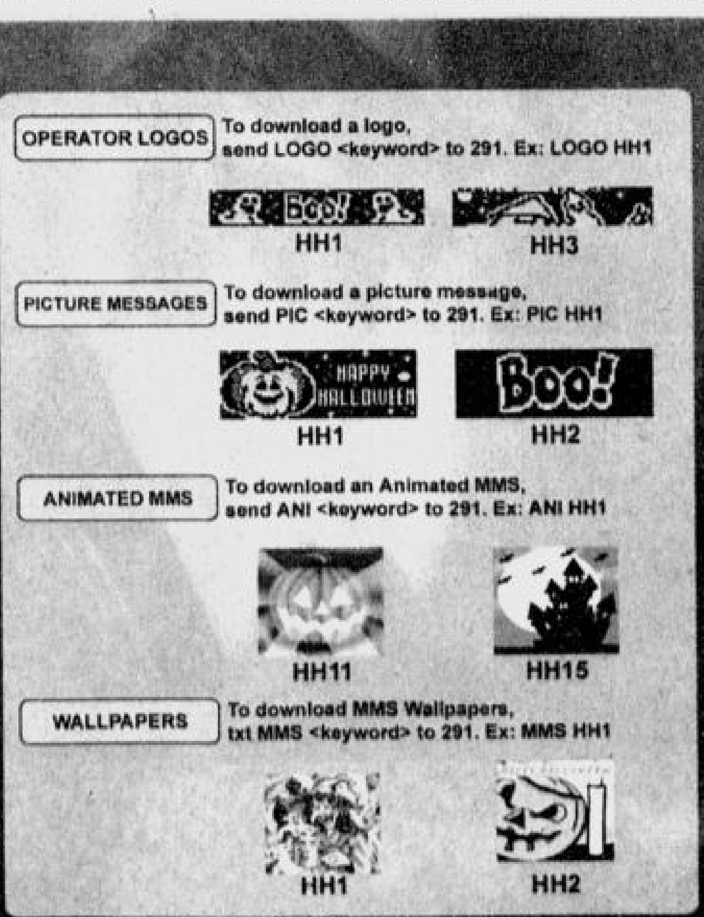

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Treats and Treats

On October 29, roaming mascots will greet kids at the Pavilion at 4pm and lead them around the mall for treats.

Best Costume contest

Prizes await 3 kids with the best costumes. No purchase required.

Smart Giveaways

Get a FREE loot bag from Gateway Mall when you do any of the following transactions at the SMART booths located at the LRT link going to Gateway Mall and the Bus Station:

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Per DTI-NCR permit No. A3 897 series of 2005.

Contributing editor
Ria Francisco

LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

Of beauty and boxes

- Reading the fine print *p. F2*
- When to store–or ditch–beauty products *p. F2*
- Manly scents *p. F3*

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Xander Angeles
for Edge of Light
Styling
Ria Francisco
Model
Isabel Roces
Makeup
Frankie Melendez of
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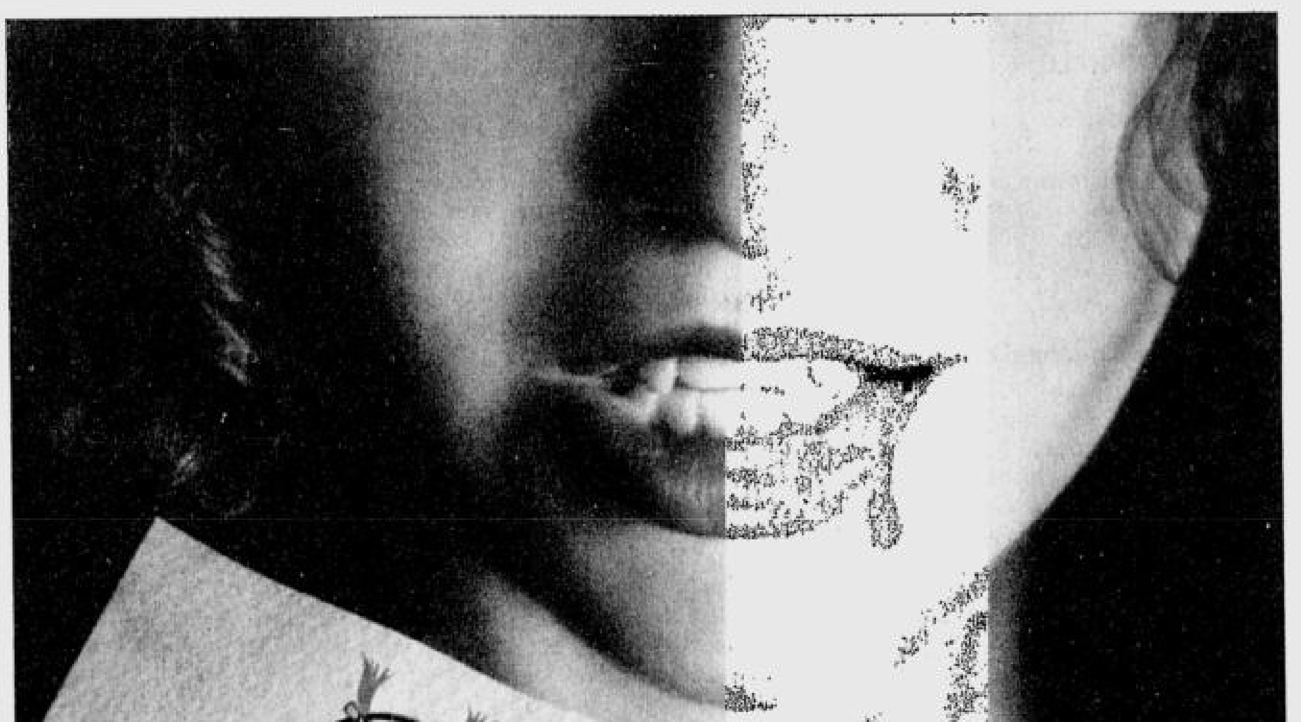

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YOUR skin is the product you use. Don't take things lying down.

Decoding the cosmetics box

By Mariel Chua
Contributor

BAFFLED BY THE LONG LIST OF archaic-sounding terms in just about every box of face cream, powder or lotion out there? We decode five commonly found ingredients to give you a head start on your next beauty-shopping trip.

Salicylic acid and benzoyl peroxide

These two are mostly found in anti-acne and oil-control products like spot treatment gels, face soaps and drying sprays. Both have dehydrating and disinfecting properties suited for infected bumps and blemishes.

Benzoyl peroxide slowly releases oxygen, which has an antibacterial effect. Salicylic acid, meanwhile, helps break down blackheads and whiteheads by slowing down the shedding of cells inside the follicles, preventing clogging of pores.

Avoid if... you experience irritation, stinging and other adverse skin reactions. While it is normal to experience a little dryness and slight peeling, too much redness around the treated area may be a sign of an allergy, or the result of too much sun exposure. Discontinue use and see a dermatologist.

All boxed in: Panoxyl Gel, Clinique Anti-Blemish Solutions Spot Treatment Gel, Benzac AC Gel, Awake Acne Clear Spots

Glycerin

Glycerin is a humectant, a substance that attracts moisture to the skin. It also absorbs water from the air (which explains the miniscule beads and bubbles found in glycerin-based soaps when left in the bathroom sink for extended periods). Because of its moisture-attracting characteristic, this ingredient softens and goes on gentle even on the most sensitive complexions.

Avoid if... you are extremely prone to allergies. Otherwise, Glycerol (the pure chemical product) is proven to be gentle and safe on your skin.

All boxed in: Celeteque Facial Wash, Neutrogena Facial Bar, most lotions and face creams

Alpha hydroxy acids

These are derived from fruit and milk sugars (like glycolic, lactic and citric acids) which loosen and hasten the shedding of dead skin cells—mostly caused by sun damage—and encourage collagen and elastin regeneration, over prolonged use.

"AHA preparations are recommended for those whose skin is showing signs of aging. Fine lines, brown marks and dry spots can improve with regular applications or peels. Glycolic acid may also prove helpful for those prone to acne," according to findings by the New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated (dermnetnz.org).

Avoid if... you plan to go under the sun for an extended period. AHAs are extremely photosensitive. They can trigger skin darkening and irritation when exposed to heat and sunlight. If you must, apply AHA-based creams at night, and make sure to slather on sunscreen liberally when heading out.

All boxed in: BeautiControl Extreme Repair Hand Therapy, Avon Anew, Estée Lauder Fruition

Peptides (di-, tri-, hexa- and penta-)

Of the recent slew of anti-wrinkle creams launched in the market, a handful contain a group of amino acids called peptides, which are said to have skin-renewing and firming properties by encouraging collagen production to "melt away" fine lines and wrinkles—without having to go through invasive surgery.

Avoid if... you're in your teens and 20s. Your top priority at this stage is to develop proper skincare habits of cleansing, toning, moisturizing, undereye hydration and sun protection.

Unless ingested in high doses, peptides have no known serious side effects. But as with any topical preparation, discontinue use if your skin experiences an adverse reaction.

All boxed in: Lancôme Rénergie Microlift Active Redefining Treatment, Estee Lauder Perfectionist CP+, Philosophy Makeup Optional Skincare System

Hyaluronic acid

While hyaluronic acid is present in every tissue of the body, it depletes in time, resulting in moisture loss and the thinning and aging of skin. Cosmetics companies have found that incorporating hyaluronic acid in facial-care products improves elasticity and helps fight wrinkles by helping skin retain more water.

It can also be injected to temporarily fill in facial lines and furrows, with results lasting from 3-9 months.

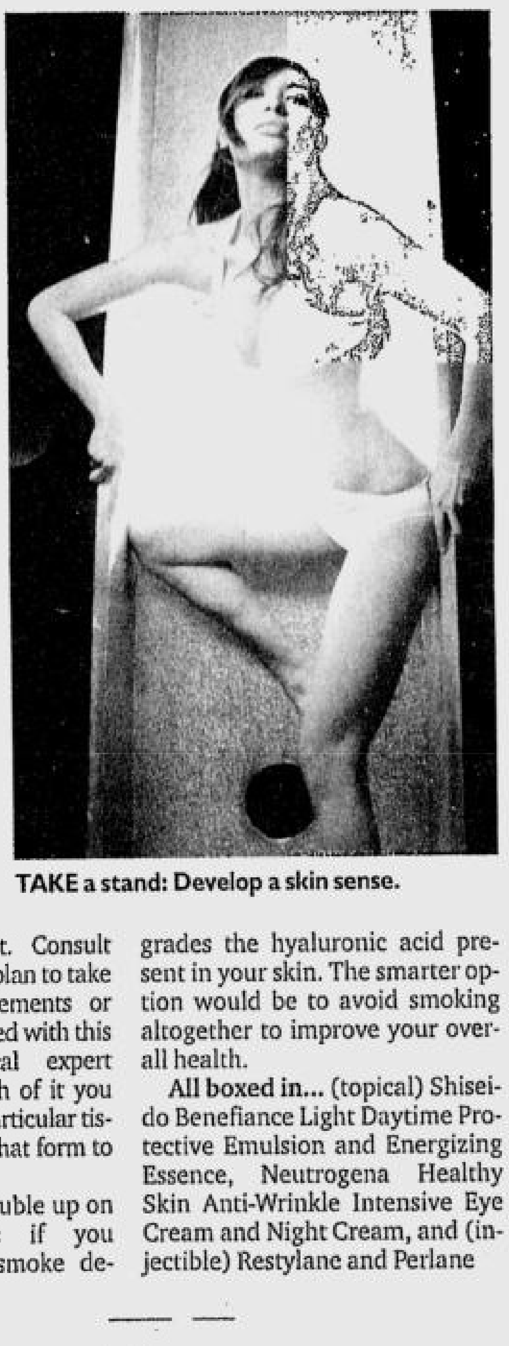
Avoid if... you have existing connective tissue disorders, special nutritional needs, or are undergoing medical treatment. Consult with your doctor if you plan to take hyaluronic acid supplements or use face creams enhanced with this ingredient (a medical expert would know how much of it you would need to treat a particular tissue condition, and in what form to administer it).

You may want to double up on face-saving products if you smoke, as cigarette smoke degrades the hyaluronic acid present in your skin. The smarter option would be to avoid smoking altogether to improve your overall health.

All boxed in... (topical) Shiseido Benefiance Light Daytime Protective Emulsion and Energizing Essence, Neutrogena Healthy Skin Anti-Wrinkle Intensive Eye Cream and Night Cream, and (injectible) Restylane and Perlane

Here's the lowdown on five commonly found ingredients in beauty products

Photography Xander Angeles
for Edge of Light
0918-9041344
Styling Ria Francisco
Makeup Frankie Melendez
of Lucy BRianco Salon
0916-7724296



TAKE a stand: Develop a skin sense.

To ditch or store—that is the question

By Giselle Go
Contributor

MOST WOMEN I KNOW always keep an arsenal of makeup stashed somewhere that she never uses but still keeps in case she finally learns to apply that tricky liquid blue eyeliner or that matte bottled foundation.

But the sad fact is, makeup has a shelf life, and chances are, that glittery blue eye shadow you bought a couple of years back may have long expired.

Makeup that's gone bad lets you know it: the color, consistency and, most importantly, the smell changes. Using expired cosmetics can irritate skin and cause breakouts or infections. Plus, an expired product won't perform as well as when you first bought it.

Not sure when it's time to throw something out? Here's a quick guide on the shelf lives of typical beauty products.

Foundation. Liquid formulations typically last three to six months. An oil-based foundation can last longer than water-based ones. Powders should last a year. If you can't remember when you bought your foundation, one indicator that it's gone bad is an offensive smell. You'll also see an uneven or chunky consistency.

Concealer. Because it's exposed to the air and bacteria, replace concealer every three to six months.

Blush. Powders usually last up to 12 months, and they can be kept longer than creams. Washing your blush brush often will keep the powder fresh longer. But always check for unpleasant smells or unusual consistency.

Lipstick typically lasts up to two years, but throw it out when your favorite tube begins to smell. Extra tip: If you store lipstick in the refrigerator, it can last longer.

Lip gloss. If you use your fingertips to apply it, toss it out after six months. A lip gloss that's applied with a wand, however, can last up to a year.

Lip liner. Every time you sharpen a lip liner pencil, you're cleaning it. So if you're sharpening it often, a lip liner can last indefinitely.

Mascara. This is the one product that expires the quickest. Why? Of all makeup products, mascara is the most prone to microbial growth. Not only can expired mascara lead to eye infections, it also can dry out your lashes.

Be sure to replace your mascara every three months. Extra tip: Don't pump the wand in and out too much because it exposes the product to the air and potential irritants.

Eye shadow. If it starts to break up, it's time for a replacement. But no matter what, you should toss out eye shadow after six months because eyes are more vulnerable to bacteria.

Eyeliner. Replace liquid eyeliners every three to four months. If your liner is a pencil, sharpen it often and replace it every six months to a year.

Eyebrow pencils. Sharpen eyebrow pencils frequently and follow the same guidelines as with a lip liner pencil.

Nail polish can last up to 12 months, depending on the quality and how many times you apply it.

As a general rule, it's good to store makeup away from direct sunlight when you're not using it, because exposure to sunlight can break down the product's preservatives.

Stash your makeup in cute printed cosmetic pouches like those from The Beauty Bar. Or if you're obsessive about your makeup, Shu Uemura has those sturdy metal cases that a lot of professional makeup artists use.

Be sure to keep makeup containers closed tight not only to avoid spilling but also to avoid bacterial contamination (I know, sounds gross!).

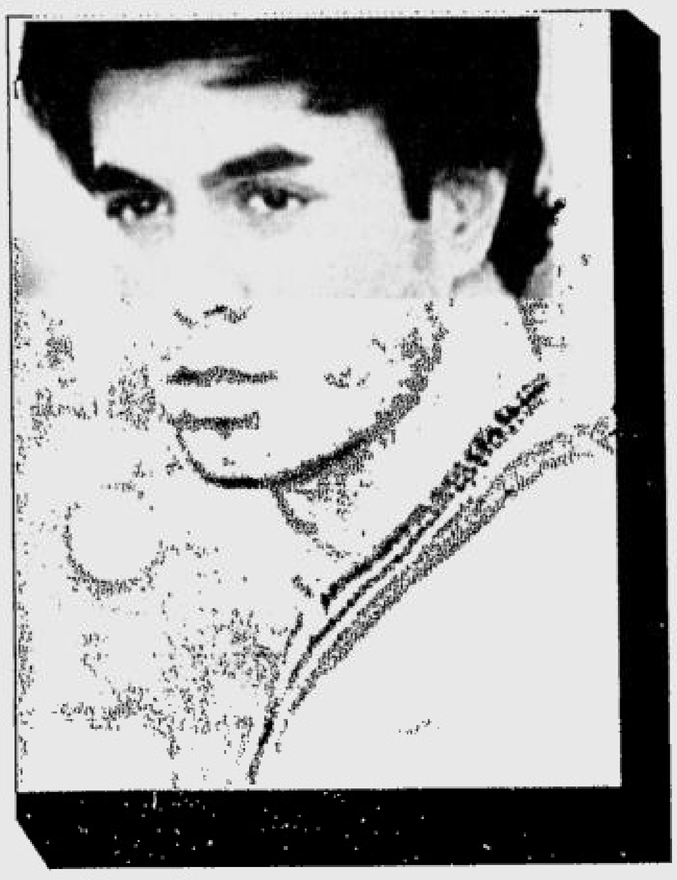
Additional safety measures to keep in mind:

- Don't use eye cosmetics if you have an eye infection (like sore eyes), and throw away any makeup you were using during the period of your infection.
- Throw away any makeup if the color changes or an odor develops. This may be a sign that the preservatives have broken down.
- Don't share makeup—you wouldn't share your toothbrush, would you?
- Don't add liquid (especially not saliva!) to bring the product back to its original consistency because it can cause bacterial contamination.

Best advice? Use the makeup you buy, otherwise that fantastic plum shimmery gloss may rot before you gain the gumption to actually use it. Which, for us dolled-up ladies, can become a minor fashion disaster.

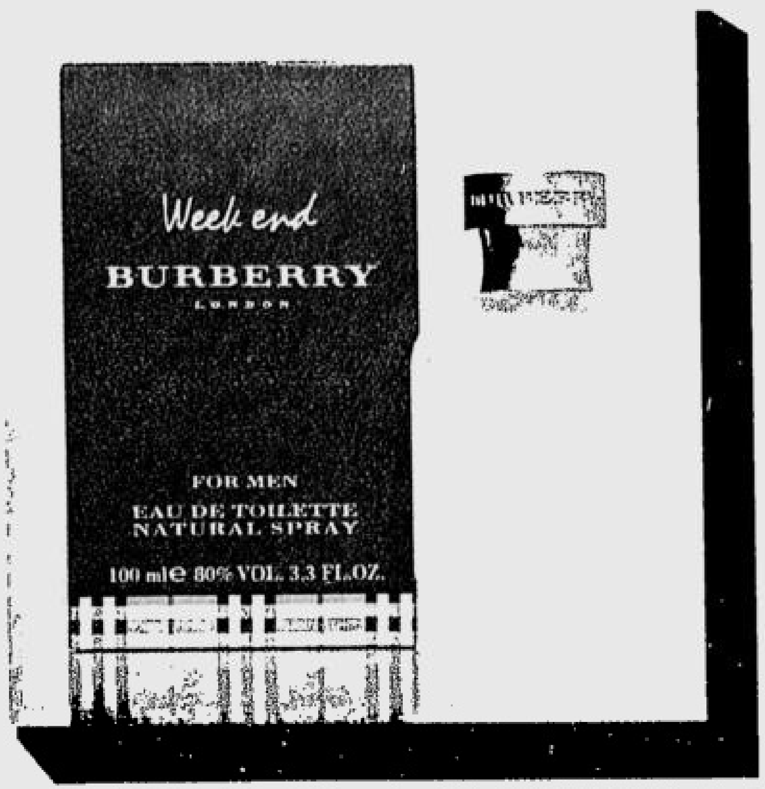
Not sure when it's time to throw something out? Here's a quick guide on the shelf lives of typical beauty products

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO



ENRIQUE Iglesias

Scent of a man



BURBERRY Weekend For Men

CLEAN Men

By Lora Gahol
Contributor

Guys, before you take your (possibly inexperienced) noses to battle, we have a few recommendations for you

ASK ANY WOMAN what she first notices about people of the opposite sex and you'll most likely hear, "How he smells."

I am a woman and, true enough, my most memorable encounters with men usually involve my olfactory glands. Catching a whiff of a well-selected scent on a guy seals a good impression—and, more often than not, keeps it.

Lucky for guys, searching for the perfect scent has become a no-brainer (or at least, is easier than searching for the perfect anniversary gift for their girlfriends). It's quite as easy as 1-2-3.

First, know your personality. You won't go for a fresh aquatic perfume if you're the mysterious, brooding individual, would you? Then, finally come to terms with the real age bracket you belong to. Are you still acceptably among the hip MTV generation like Ashton Kutcher or more of a subtle Richard Gere-sexy with those few silver strands on your head?

Lastly, know the appropriate occasion to wear a certain scent. Stronger notes of musk and wood may be too overpowering for a day at the golf course, isn't it?

At this point, a visit to the fragrance counter is in order. But before you take your (possibly inexperienced) noses to battle, we do have a few recommendations for you.

Burberry Weekend for Men. I guess it would be understood without need for further explanation that this particular fragrance is not your signature big-boss-wannabe scent.

Light and clean, it is perfect for the man who loves a laid-back weekend at the club or at a snazzy resort, perpetually in his pique polo shirts and breezy drawstring pants. Woody notes balance out the citrusy base, which is really the best way to prevent an otherwise manly scent to smell more like a grown-up's baby cologne.

Crisp and fresh, it's the perfect finishing touch to the kick-off-your-shoes attitude you already have.

Clean Men. They certainly don't call it that for nothing. For the man who goes for the most basic scent around but wants to go about town with an "I smell really good" aura, this is the most obvious pick.

This crystal-clear product has an intriguing blend of floral, fruity and woody notes that amazingly stays on the entire day.

You won't find any frills here. It's the honest-to-goodness I-just-stepped-out-of-the-shower smell. Okay, maybe a little more like I-just-stepped-out-of-the-shower-and-used-up-a-whole-bar-of-soap smell. Either way, it's the scent I'd love to smell off my guy's neck. That must count for something.

Tommy Hilfiger True Star. There's the good man, and there's the star. The eligible bachelor, the heartthrob, the guy every guy wants to be. If this man naturally smelled like something, it would definitely be Tommy Hilfiger's True Star Men.

Simple but a sure head-turner—that's the kind of guy that embodies this scent. It is boyish with initial grapefruit notes that slowly melt into sexy-sweet black licorice. Very much like Hilfiger's star of choice, Enrique Iglesias.

This has to be the secret behind the boy-next-door's metamorphosis into the hottest It Guy.

All scents available at Rustan's.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

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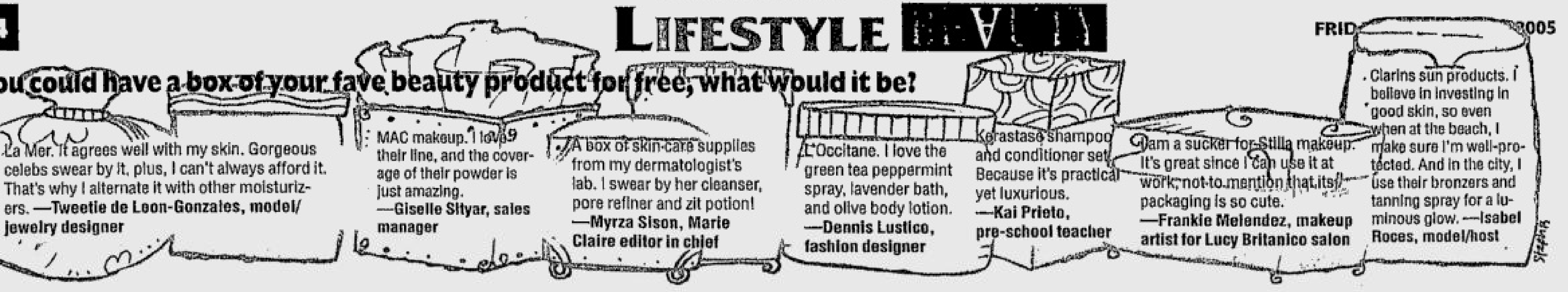
If you could have a box of your fave beauty product for free, what would it be?



La Mer. It agrees well with my skin. Gorgeous celebs swear by it, plus, I can't always afford it. That's why I alternate it with other moisturizers. **—Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales, model/jewelry designer**

MAC makeup. I love their line, and the coverage of their powder is just amazing. **—Giselle Sityar, sales manager**

A box of skin-care supplies from my dermatologist's lab. I swear by her cleanser, pore refiner and zit potion! **—Myrza Sison, Marie Claire editor in chief**

L'Occitane. I love the green tea peppermint spray, lavender bath, and olive body lotion. **—Dennis Lustico, fashion designer**

Kerastase shampoo and conditioner set. Because it's practical yet luxurious. **—Kai Prieto, pre-school teacher**

I am a sucker for Stila makeup. It's great since I can use it at work, not to mention that its packaging is so cute. **—Frankie Melendez, makeup artist for Lucy Britanico salon**

Clarins sun products. I believe in investing in good skin, so even when at the beach, I make sure I'm well-protected. And in the city, I use their bronzers and tanning spray for a luminous glow. **—Isabel Roces, model/host**

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From kitchen to runway

DESIGNER Cynthia Rowley (above) and her TupperWear ballet wedges (left)

CYNTHIA Rowley, one of America's most celebrated fashion designers, recently unveiled her Spring 2006 collection featuring Tupperware-created fashion accessories.

Finding a perfect fit between her collection and the modern, innovative plastics that have been a hallmark of the American icon for over five decades, Rowley has found Tupperware to be inspirational and turned to the company to help create the unique accessories for the runway.

Rowley looked at Tupperware to bring to life her design for plastic-soled shoes and, updating the sleek '60s look, custom headbands, which she will sell at her stores.

Tupperware also plans to invite consumers and designers from around the world to create a piece of art using Tupperware as the basis for their inspiration.

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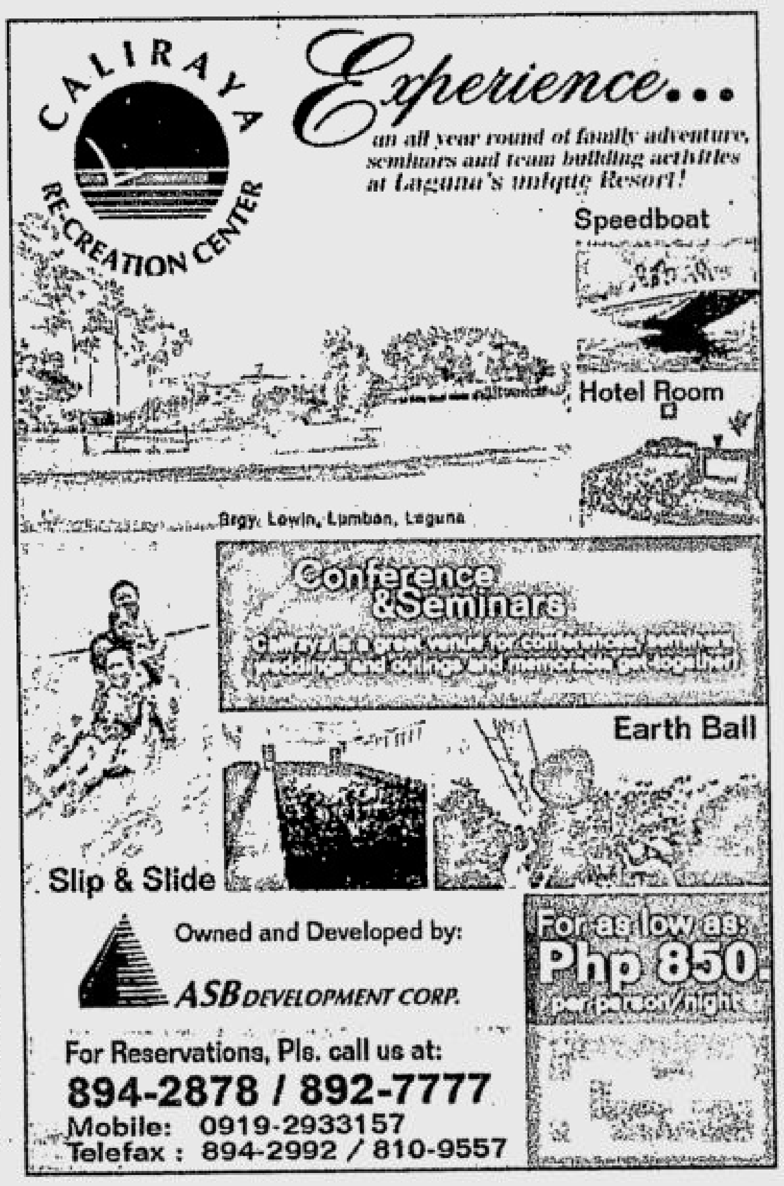

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SRP: P34,999
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SRP: P8,899
Promo Price: P8,399
SAVE: P500

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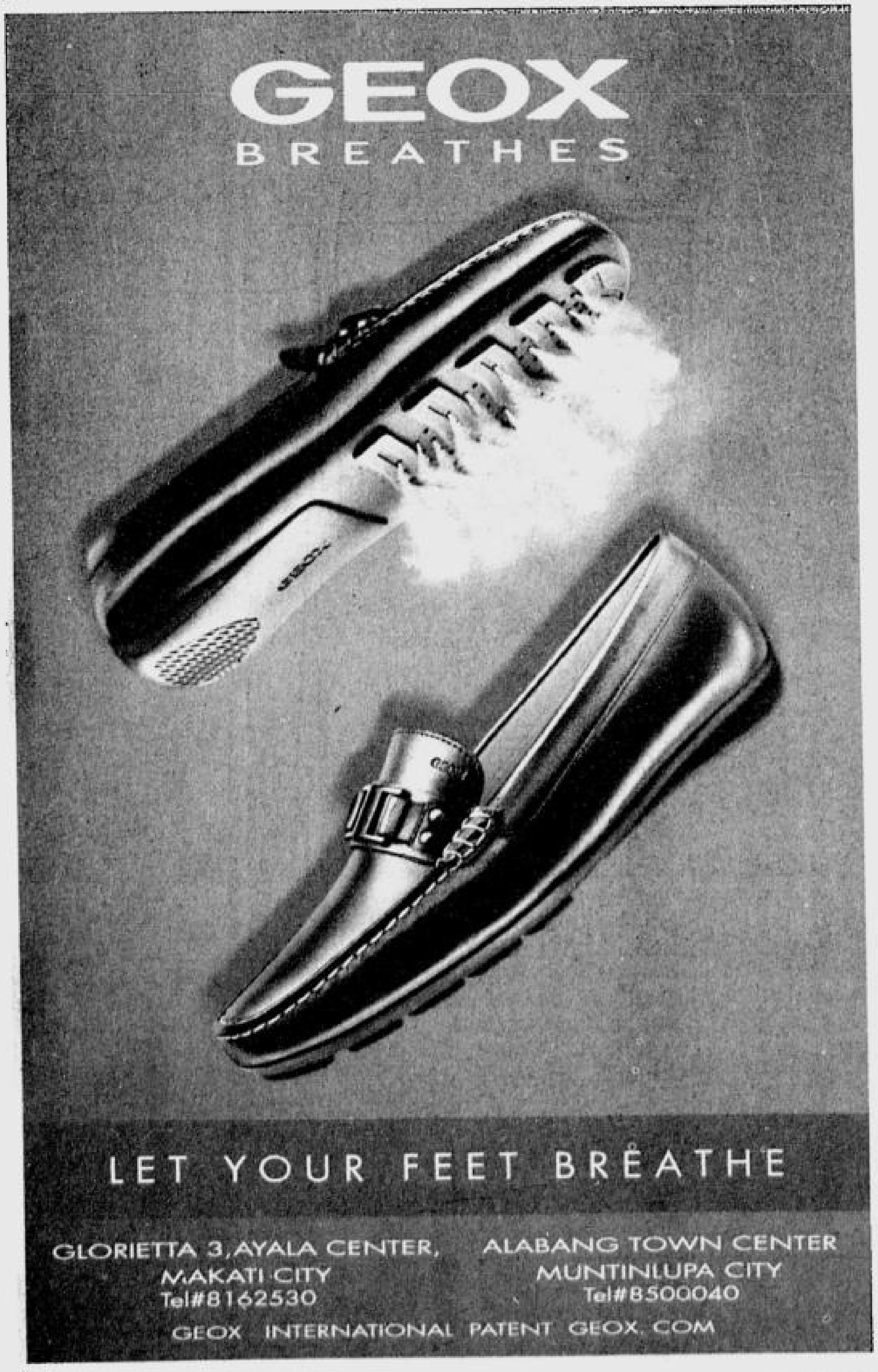

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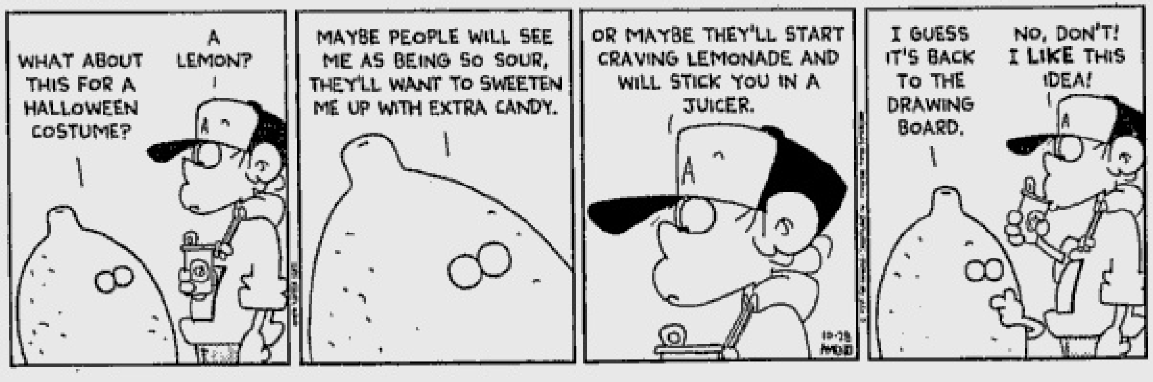
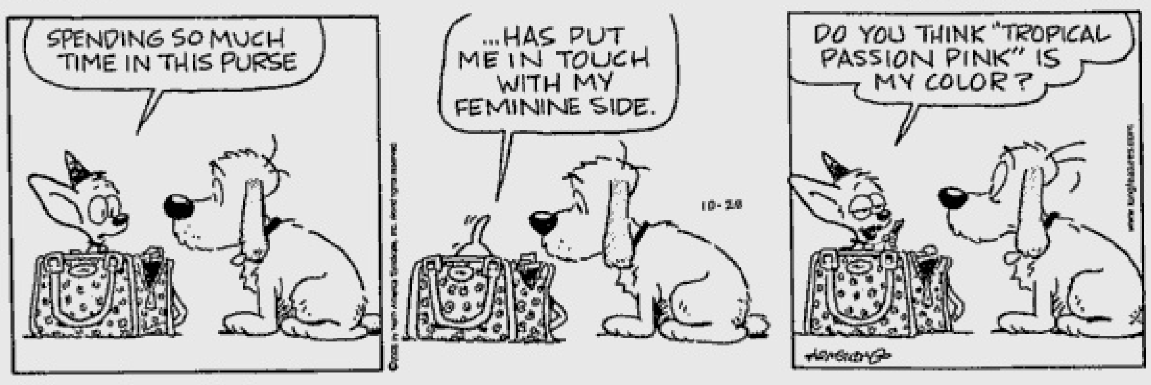
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ABOUT THIS FOR A HALLOWEEN COSTUME?
A LEMON?
MAYBE PEOPLE WILL SEE ME AS BEING SO SOUR, THEY'LL WANT TO SWEETEN ME UP WITH EXTRA CANDY.
OR MAYBE THEY'LL START CRAVING LEMONADE AND WILL STICK YOU IN A JUICER.
I GUESS IT'S BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD.
NO, DON'T! I LIKE THIS IDEA!
10-28

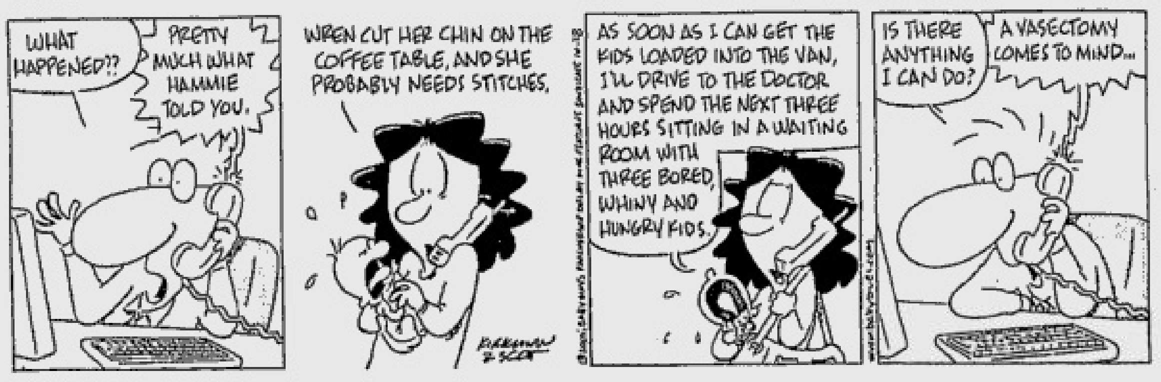
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN THIS PURSE
...HAS PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH MY FEMININE SIDE.
DO YOU THINK "TROPICAL PASSION PINK" IS MY COLOR?
10-28

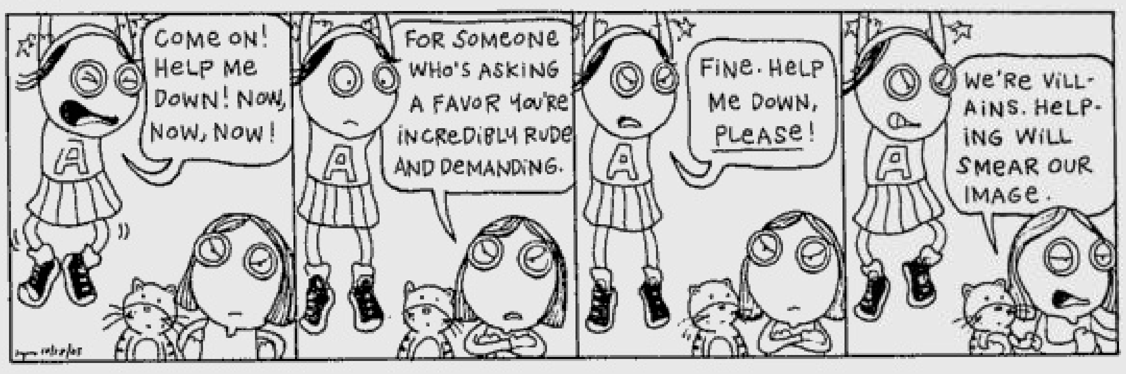
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT HAPPENED??
PRETTY MUCH WHAT HAMMIE TOLD YOU.
WREN CUT HER CHIN ON THE COFFEE TABLE, AND SHE PROBABLY NEEDS STITCHES.
AS SOON AS I CAN GET THE KIDS LOADED INTO THE VAN, I'LL DRIVE TO THE DOCTOR AND SPEND THE NEXT THREE HOURS SITTING IN A WAITING ROOM WITH THREE BORED, WHINY AND HUNGRY KIDS.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
A VASECTOMY COMES TO MIND...

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Come on! Help me Down! Now, Now, Now!
For Someone who's asking a favor you're incredibly rude and demanding.
Fine. Help me down, please!
We're villains. Helping will smear our image.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you have a fine mind, you can do complex things. Details never daunt you. You learn things quickly. Nevertheless, your outer mask is easygoing and friendly. Your intelligence never intimidates others. Get ready to wrap something up this year. It's time to move on. A completely new path beckons to you.
Birthdate of: Daphne Zuniga, actress; Evelyn Waugh, writer; Julia Roberts, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid religious and political arguments today. You can't help feeling vehemently about something. You'll attack anyone who argues with your beliefs. (I suggest you climb down off your soapbox.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel passionate today. You might feel passionate about financial matters; you might feel passionate about intimate, romantic matters. Either way, don't lose your cool.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're unusually attracted to someone today. Existing partnerships can be very intense now, but in a good way. You want to get to the bottom of things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You'll demand that co-workers be honest and clear with you today. You don't want superficial explanations about anything. You want the solid truth. (And you'll get it!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Romance is hot and heavy today! (Be still, my beating heart.) Relationships that begin now will be memorable! (Definitely good diary material.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a wonderful day to make changes for the better at home or within your family dynamic. You want to improve everything around you. Be careful; family members whom you want to improve might not share your enthusiasm!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a strong urge to persuade others to agree with you today. You fervently believe your point of view. You're convincing. If you're in sales, you're deadly!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might feel a bit obsessed about buying something today. You feel you have to have something. Similarly, you're aggressive about earning money as well. Try to be more detached.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In a way, you're bigger than life today. You feel passionate about everything. People notice your emotional nature. You're so magnetic today that others are actually attracted to you. (Whew!)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have a secret. It might be a secret love affair. It might be a secret of a different kind. Whatever it is, it seems to be very important to you today.

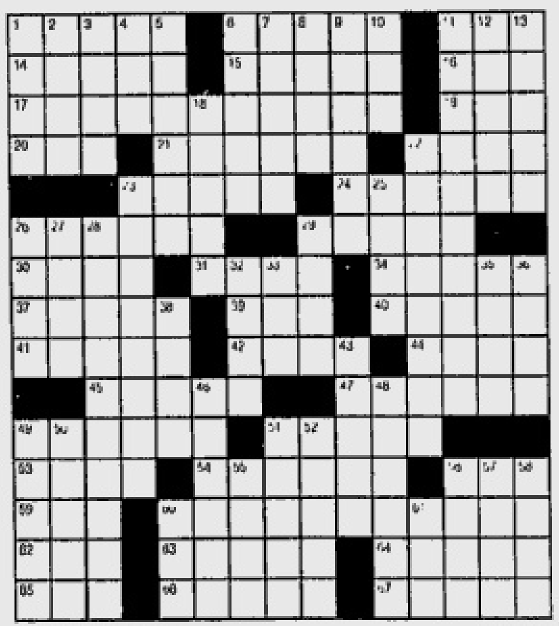
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might encounter someone who blows your socks off today. This person is convincing, magnetic and mesmerizing. How thrilling! (You might impress others in the same way.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Bosses and authority figures are highly receptive to your suggestions today. You're like a hot knife cutting through butter. You'll get your way in practically anything that you want.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Picture volume
6 Follows orders
11 Time off work: abbr.
14 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
15 Be off
16 "__ My Sons"
17 Safe locater?
19 P. Hearst's kidnappers
20 At the stern
21 Writer Hemingway
22 Pontiac muscle cars
23 Use a crane
24 Larcenies
26 Enjoys
29 Peachy keen!
30 Hertz rival
31 Facility
34 One hundred forty-four
37 Italian geothermal pioneer
39 __ about time!
40 Oi bristles
41 Series shutout
42 Why don't we
44 Prefix with dyne or drome
45 Dental-care product
47 Gary Player's nickname
49 Very
51 "The Sheik of __" (1921 hit)
53 Foxy
54 Rita of "West Side Story"
56 Kind of runner
59 Class for U.S. immigrants
60 Vehicle publication?
62 Classic Olds
63 Gentry or Fudd
64 Kindled anew
65 Compass pt.
66 Stadium levels
67 Greek letter

DOWN
1 Edison's middle name
2 Bum around
3 Champagne description
4 WWW address
5 Shooting star
6 Ken and Lena
7 "John Brown's Body" poet
8 St. Louis bridge
9 Actress Mimieux
10 Sun. oration
11 Having size EEEE?
12 Mete out
13 School session
18 Upholstery fabric
22 Prepare
23 Lodge
25 Crones
26 Anatomical pouches
27 Solemnly swear
28 Grape-grower?
29 Insect colony
32 Feels unwell
33 Fr. holy woman
35 Jaipur attire
36 Gin flavor
38 Wall St. debuts
43 Pop talk
46 Mogadishu resident
48 On the plane
49 Bedside pitchers
50 Clamping devices
51 One providing weapons
52 Brings up
55 My treat!
56 Rivulet
57 Army group
58 Physical start?
60 Dog doo
61 Last letter



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
10/28/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ABBE■SNL■SPADER
LARD■LOO■AURORA
AJUDGEIS■ONEWAY
NAT■RIDES■TANTE
■■■SAGE■ERE■MOD
AMANTHATENOSA■■
SOBEIT■IDA■ARNE
TALES■KEY■LUKAS
INEZ■ANI■MODEST
■■SENTENCEWITHA
UAE■EEE■ILES■■■
PLANE■LANAS■SAC
POMADE■SENTENCE
ENABLE■AMI■TURN
DENSER■PAN■ABET

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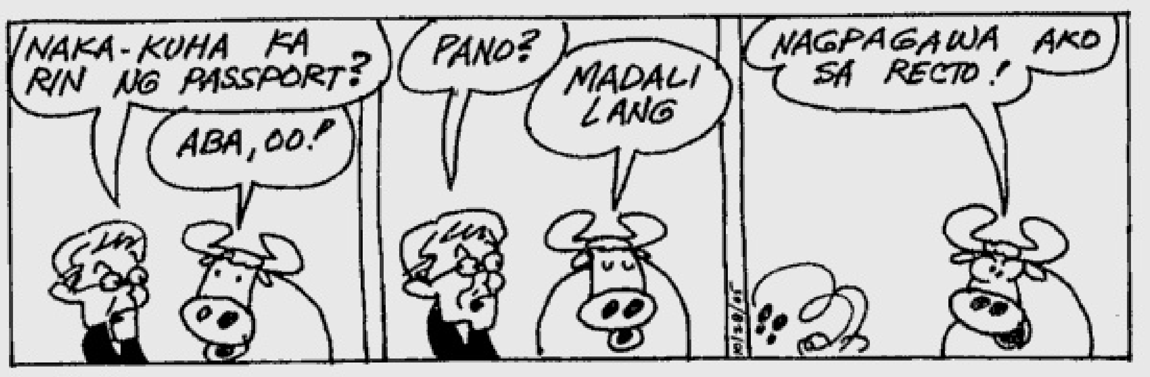
10/28/05

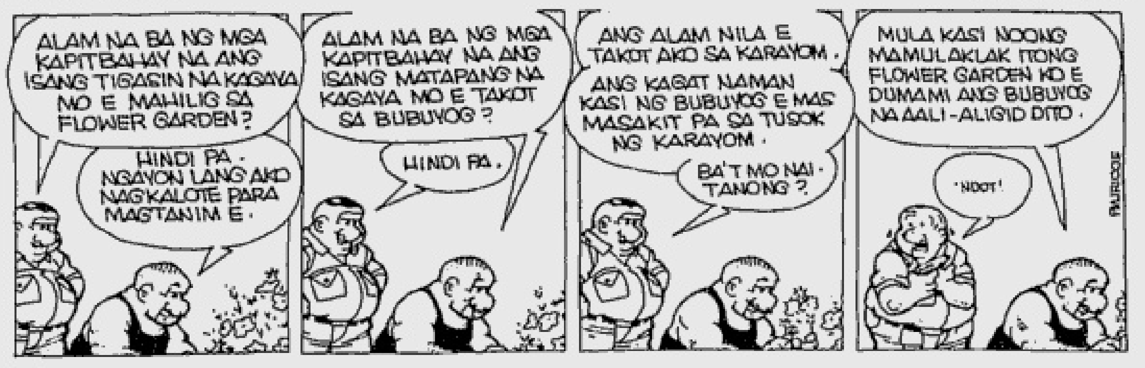
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKA-KUHA KA RIN NG PASSPORT?
ABA, OO!
PANO?
MADALI LANG
NAGPAGAWA AKO SA RECTO!

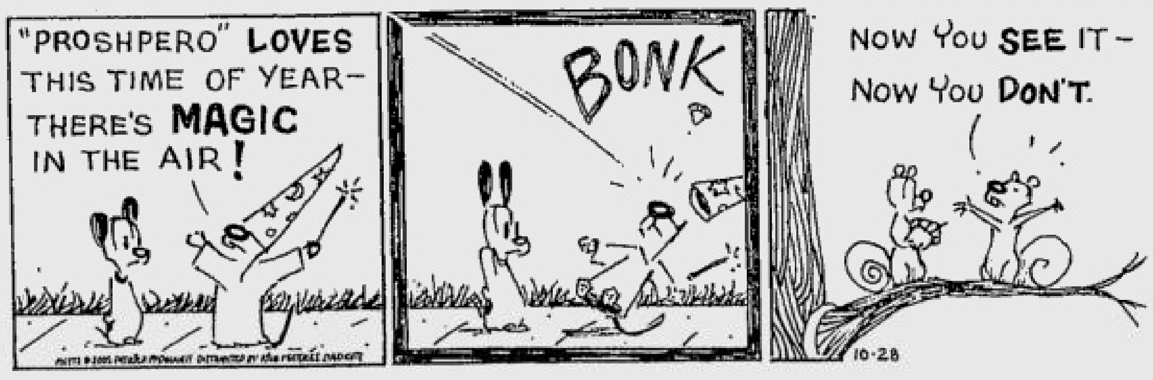
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM NA BA NG MGA KAPITBAHAY NA ANG ISANG TIGASIN NA KAGAYA MO E MAHILIG SA FLOWER GARDEN?
HINDI PA. NGAYON LANG AKO NAGKALOTE PARA MAGTANIM E.
ALAM NA BA NG MGA KAPITBAHAY NA ANG ISANG MATAPANG NA KAGAYA MO E TAKOT SA BUBUYOG?
HINDI PA.
ANG ALAM NILA E TAKOT AKO SA KARAYOM.
ANG KAGAT NAMAN KASI NG BUBUYOG E MAS MASAKIT PA SA TUSOK NG KARAYOM.
BA'T MO NAITANONG?
MULA KASI NOONG MAMULAKLAK ITONG FLOWER GARDEN KO E DUMAMI ANG BUBUYOG NA AALI-ALIGID DITO.
'NOOT'

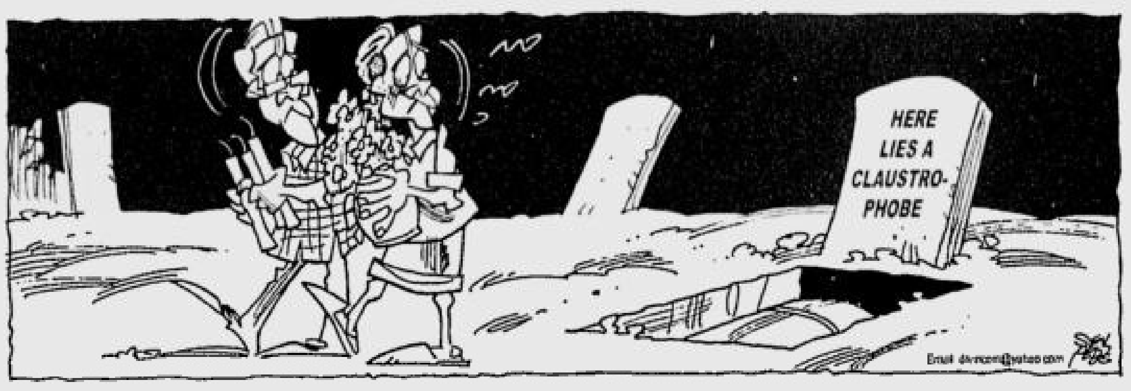
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


"PROSHPERO" LOVES THIS TIME OF YEAR— THERE'S MAGIC IN THE AIR!
BONK
NOW YOU SEE IT— NOW YOU DON'T.
10-28

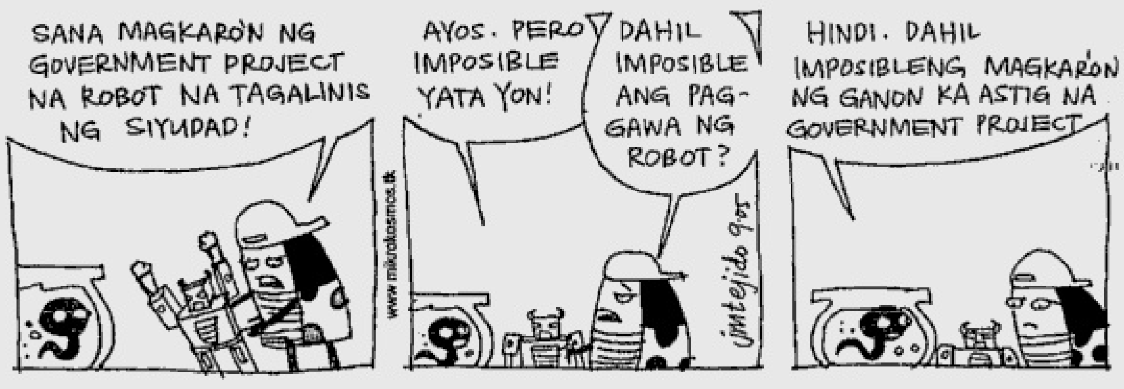
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE LIES A CLAUSTROPHOBE

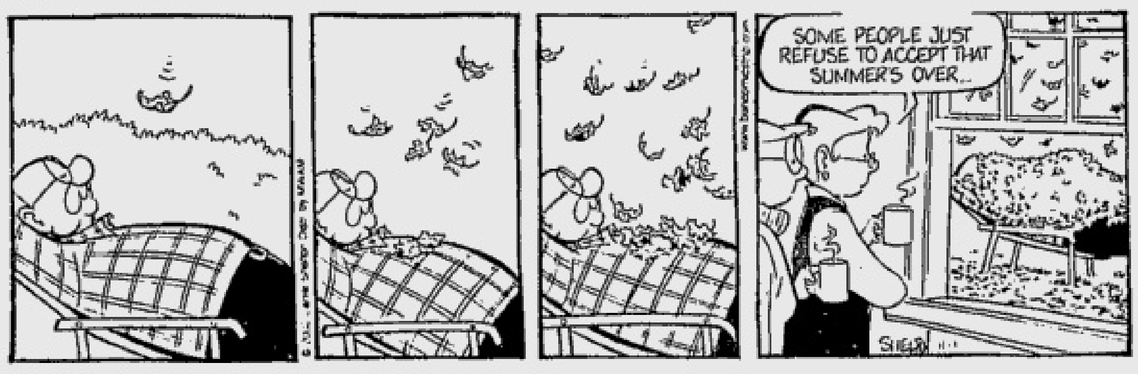
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SANA MAGKARO'N NG GOVERNMENT PROJECT NA ROBOT NA TAGALINIS NG SIYUDAD!
AYOS. PERO IMPOSIBLE YATA YON!
DAHIL IMPOSIBLE ANG PAGGAWA NG ROBOT?
HINDI. DAHIL IMPOSIBLENG MAGKARO'N NG GANON KA ASTIG NA GOVERNMENT PROJECT
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 9.05

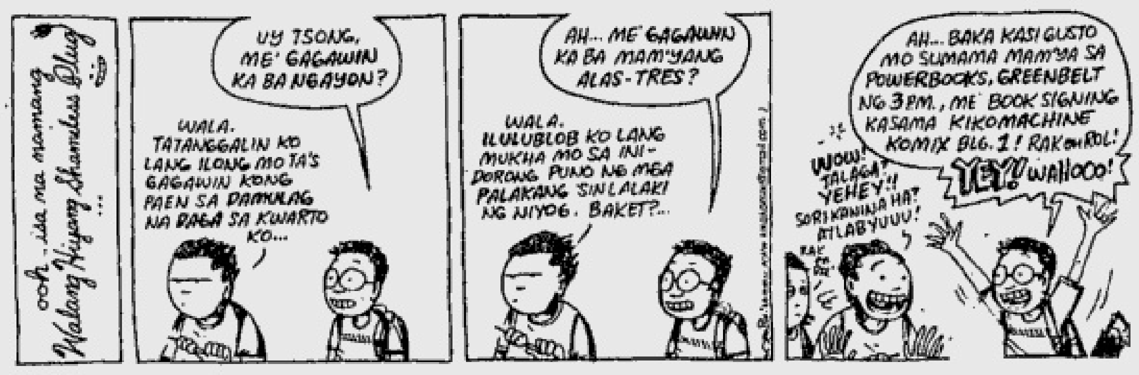
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SOME PEOPLE JUST REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT SUMMER'S OVER...

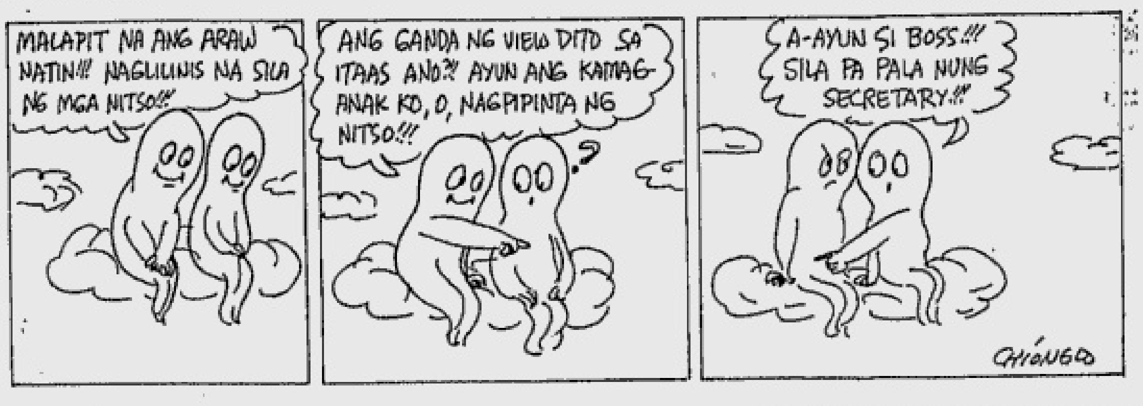
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ooh.. isa na namang Walang Hiyang Shameless Plug...
UY TSONG, ME' GAGAWIN KA BA NGAYON?
WALA. TATANGGALIN KO LANG ILONG MO TA'S GAGAWIN KONG PAEN SA DAMULAG NA DAGA SA KWARTO KO...
AH... ME' GAGAWIN KA BA MAM'YANG ALAS-TRES?
WALA. ILULUBLOB KO LANG MUKHA MO SA INIDORONG PUNO NG MGA PALAKANG SINLALAKI NG NIYOG. BAKET?...
AH... BAKA KASI GUSTO MO SUMAMA MAM'YA SA POWERBOOKS, GREENBELT NG 3PM., ME' BOOK SIGNING KASAMA KIKOMACHINE KOMIX BLG. 1! RAK en ROL!
WOW! TALAGA? YEHEY!! SORI KANINA HA? ATLABYUUU!
YEY! WAHOOO!

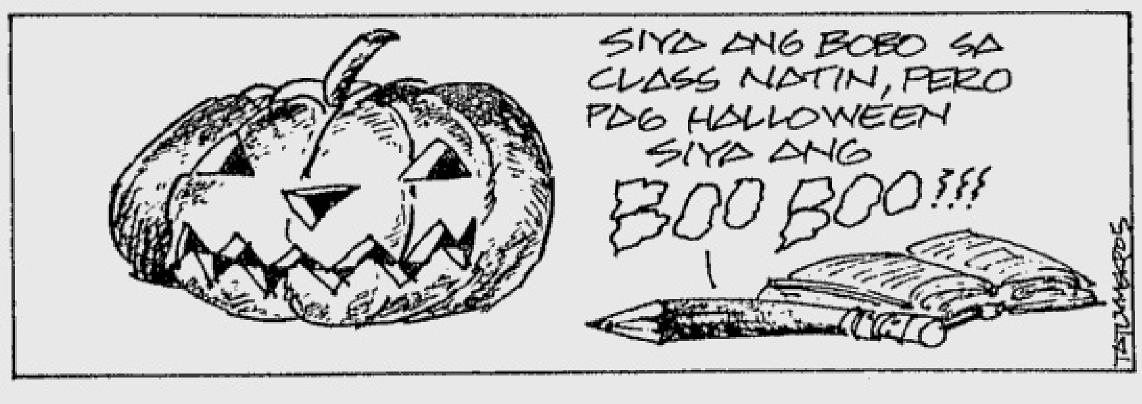
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MALAPIT NA ANG ARAW NATIN!!! NAGLILINIS NA SILA NG MGA NITSO!!!
ANG GANDA NG VIEW DITO SA ITAAS ANO?! AYUN ANG KAMAG-ANAK KO, O, NAGPIPINTA NG NITSO!!!
A-AYUN SI BOSS!!! SILA PA PALA NUNG SECRETARY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIYA ANG BOBO SA CLASS NATIN, PERO PAG HALLOWEEN SIYA ANG BOO BOO!!!

ON VAL: Oakley's Gasean Polish white (P6,695), Loud ruby tank top (P1,295). On the counter: Fish & Co.'s one-liter drinks Sharkie, Jungle Freeze and Mermaid

THE CLOTHES. On Robbie: Oakley's Crosshair polished white eyewear (P8,695), Cactus sheet metal top (P2,395), Crank olive shorts (P3,995). On Luke: Oakley's Crosshair silver eyewear (P7,995), S/S Pressure Rash Guard sheet metal (P1,895), Individual Denim #1 pigment (P2,995). On Zanjoe: Oakley's Crosshair matte black (P8,695), Johnny New Khaki top (P2,195), Corrossion denim pants (P3,495). The food. (L-R) Swordfish Collar, Mussels in Garlic Butter and the famous New York Fish and Chips

Fish in the city

THE LONG WEEKEND BRIDGING OCTOBER and November is expected to be sunny and perfect for hitting the beaches. But if you can't leave the city, do the next best thing. Don your beachwear and head for the new restaurant Fish & Co.'s flagship store in Shangri-La mall where the whole beach-meets-hip-fish-warehouse vibe is going on.

Taking their cue from the sea and the waves, Oakley's surf wear and sunglasses are perfect for this season. For the men: sunglasses, board shorts and rubber flip flops are a must. For the ladies: Oakley's tank tops and tiny board shorts are the next best thing. Completing the whole beach-babe look are Oakley sunglasses for women.

Fish & Co. is newly opened in Shangri-La and Greenbelt 3 and already, shoals of people have gotten hooked on specialties such as the Best Fish & Chips in Town, Mussels in Garlic Butter, One Kilo Portuguese Chili Crab, and their seafood platters. Call 9102140 to 42 (Shangri-La Mall); 7297434/7299731 (Greenbelt 3).

Oakley Eyewear and Apparel are available at G-Force, The Podium; G-Force, 3/L Power Plant Mall; TiO2, Greenbelt 3; Rustan's Alabang Towncenter; Rustan's, Glorietta 4; Rustan's Tower, Shangri-La Mall; and Cebu-Aison Auto Center, F. Cabahug cor Island Market Square.

PHOTOS AND STYLING: SHEILA MARIE JUAN
HAIR AND MAKEUP: MITCH LIM
CLOTHING: OAKLEY FROM TIO2 GREENBELT 3
SHOT ON LOCATION: FISH & CO. FLAGSHIP STORE IN SHANGRI-LA MALL

ON VAL: Oakley's Super Ocean top (P1,495). On the table: Mussels in Garlic Butter, Prawn Trellis and Seafood Marinara

ON Robbie: Oakley's white Grid Iron shirt (P1,895), Mass Destruction slate blue shorts (P2,395) and Split gray sandals (P2,795). On Val: Oakley's Loud Bleach Blue (P1,295), white Cruiser shorts (P2,195), Women's Gasket sandals (P1,995). On the table: Pasta and Shrimp Salad and Sea Monkey

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The Handog ng Safeguard Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program...

A continuing Testimony and Commitment to quality health for a growing nation

Spurred by its commitment to the promotion of good health and hygiene, Safeguard's partnership with the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (or PAMET) attests its continuing pledge to transform the lives of people through a variety of health education and service programs. Sixteen years ago, the partnership launched a scholarship program aimed at providing deserving medical technology students with quality education in public health care through the **"Handog ng Safeguard ... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program.**

"Handog ng Safeguard ... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan" is a collaborative and noble effort of Safeguard and PAMET that has to date, awarded over 200 deserving scholars from different parts of the country with 3-year medical technology scholarships.

The **"Handog ng Safeguard Medtechs ng Kinabukasan"** Scholarship Program" is a nationwide search for deserving scholars in the field of medical technology. Sixteen years since its launch, Safeguard, through PAMET makes available a three (3) year college scholarship for 15 intellectually-gifted but underprivileged medical technology sophomores. The program echoes Safeguard's dedication to the millions of Filipinos it continues to serve, while thanking them for their loyalty and support to the brand all these years.

This year, the scholarship program launches for the first time the **Most Outstanding Alumni Award** to recognize the alumnus who has fulfilled the vision of the scholarship. This recognition acknowledges the alumnus who continues to carry out the vision of improving healthcare in communities upon graduation while practicing his profession. Frederick M. Ilagan, who graduated in 1999 from the Lyceum of Batangas is this year's honoree. He was chosen from over 200 awardees of the Safeguard-PAMET scholarship program.

This year's batch of 15 deserving scholars include: Nathaniel F. Paragas of Trinity College; Greg Ryan T. Gerongano, University of Negros Oriental- Recoletos; Abegail R. Argana, Lyceum of Batangas; Peterson P. Chang, University of San Agustin; Aileen A. Busquit, University of Perpetual Help; Gerard Andrew L. Ramos, University of Perpetual Help; Arshi M. Corrado, Lyceum of Batangas; Iven Christ L. Castromayor, University of Immaculate Conception; Celinie G. Dinglasan, Lyceum of Batangas; Frances Margaret Casimiro, University of Immaculate Conception; Miles S. Romero, University of San Agustin; Jane S. Leofe, University of San Agustin; Arjay V. Abichuela, Manila Central University; Lechelle M. Banaira, Lyceum of Batangas; and Gizelle D. Calapit, Far Eastern University. A special citation for the Best Essay will also be given. Awarding ceremonies will be held tonight, October 28,2005 at the Peninsula Manila Conservatory at 6PM.

The **"Handog ng Safeguard ... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan"** Scholarship Program is a continuing testimony to the many men and women who have dedicated themselves to the propagation of better health care in our communities. It also broadens the dedication and commitment of an institutional brand like Safeguard to bring better health care practices to more and more citizens around the country.

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We give them allowance.

So they can concentrate on their

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16 Years
HANDOG
NG
Safeguard
MedTechs
Ng Kinabukasan
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

We've supported over 200 Medtech scholars in 16 years. And this year, 15 more.

Nathaniel F. Paragas
Trinity College
of Quezon City

Greg Ryan T. Gerongano
University of
Negros Occidental-Recoletos

Abegail R. Argana
Lyceum of
Batangas

Peterson P. Chang
University of San Agustin

Aileen A. Busquit
University of
Perpetual Help

Gerard Andrew L. Ramos
University of
Perpetual Help

Arshi M. Corrado
Lyceum of Batangas

Iven Christ L. Castromayor
University of
Immaculate Conception

Celinie G. Dinglasan
Lyceum of Batangas

Frances Margaret Casimiro
University of Immaculate
Conception

Miles S. Romero
University of
San Agustin

Jane S. Leofe
University of
San Agustin

Arjay V. Abichuela
Manila Central University

Lechelle M. Banaira
Lyceum Of Batangas

Gizelle D. Calapit
Far Eastern University

PAMET
1964

Since 1989, Safeguard and PAMET have been steadfast in their commitment to support the education of the country's most outstanding and deserving Medical Technology students.

Safeguard